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Further on Foreign Ministers' Tripartite Meeting

LD0806172893 Tehran IRNA English 0436 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Asked about his recent tour of the Persian Gulf Arab countries [at a news conference with the Turkish and Syrian foreign ministers following their tripartite meeting], [Iranian Foreign Minister] Velayati said his visit was a routine one aimed at exchanging views with the officials of the six countries. He stressed that the sensitive situation in the region demanded regional cooperation. "If we are looking for real regional security, we in Iran, believe in regional cooperation. Without regional cooperation we cannot have regional security. And the important role of Iran in this region cannot be ignored."

Asked if he had observed any change in the stand of the regional countries, he said the officials of these countries were all keen to have friendly ties with Iran, a desire shared by Iran as well.

Asked to comment on allegations that Iran was involved in terrorist activities, [Turkish Foreign Minister] Cetin said Turkey did not believe in these allegations. He added that his country was against terrorism. "No country can tolerate any terrorist action against the territory of another country. [no end quotation marks as received]

In reply to the same question, Velayati said Iran has repeatedly denied these accusations and that it did not support any terrorists. He added that as far as the U.S. State Department was concerned whenever a country did not follow U.S. foreign policy, they accused it of being a terrorist. "That is not a new question and we are used to it and this is baseless," he said.

On the possibility of a meeting of the Iraqi opposition in Syria, the Syrian foreign minister said it was up to the Iraqi opposition to hold the meeting. There were at the moment consultations among Iraqi opposition leaders to hold the meeting, he said.

In reply to a question on the existence of economic deadlocks in Iran, an issue set forth by a number of presidential candidates, Velayati praised President Rafsanjani's policies. He said he had been very successful in implementing the goals of the first 5-year development plan. The government, he said, has achieved all the goals announced at the beginning of the plan. He however admitted that the country was facing some problems because Iran was moving towards a free economy.

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers Issue Final Statement

LD0806213993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1719 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 8 Jun (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] today concluded the proceedings of the 47th session of their ministerial meeting at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh. The ministerial council issued a communique at the close of its session. The communique, read by GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, said:

Press statement: The ministerial council held its 47th session on 17-18 Dhu al-Hijjah 1413 of the Hegira, corresponding to 7-8 June 1993, at the general secretariat headquarters in Riyadh, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates and chairman of the current session, in the presence of: His Excellency Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Muhammad Al Khalifah, Bahrain's ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabir Al Thani, foreign minister of the state of Qatar, His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister in the state of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The council reviewed the latest regional and international developments and examined the situation in the light of the Iraqi regime's continued procrastination over the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against the state of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The ministerial council also welcomed the agreement achieved by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the Islamic Republic of Iran on their desire and readiness to hold further dialogue to settle all standing issues.

The council reiterated full support to and complete solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the measures it took to ensure the safety of pilgrims to God's house and to enable them to perform the hajj safely and in tranquillity, in accordance with Islam's principles of tolerance.

The council discussed the development of the peace process in the Middle East in light of the conclusion of the ninth round of bilateral talks, and welcomed the agreement between the parties concerned to convene the tenth round later this month.

The council renews its full support for the peace process, which aims at achieving a comprehensive, permanent, and just solution to the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of "land for peace", achieving Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, primarily holy Jerusalem, securing legitimate national rights for the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, and the establishment of solid bases for guaranteeing security and stability in the Middle East region.

The Ministerial Council called on the international community to take all necessary steps to ensure Israel immediately lifts the state of siege imposed on the occupied Arab territories, respects the rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories guaranteed by the fourth Geneva Convention, starts implementing Resolution 799, ceases to violate the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, and implements Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates Israel's unconditional withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories in accordance with the spirit of peace efforts and the measures for strengthening trust. [passage omitted]

The council lauds the issuance of Security Council Resolution 833 that has definitively adopted the results of the work of the UN committee charged with the task of demarcation of the border between the state of Kuwait and Iraq, and guaranteed the inviolability of the international border between the two countries in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the charter.

The council reiterates its consistent position on the need for Iraq to implement all Security Council resolutions related to its aggression against the state of Kuwait, and all the articles of Resolution 687, particularly those pertaining to the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees, and citizens of other states, and to recognize the international border between the two countries on the basis of the 1963 agreement, and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 687, 773, and 833, to pay compensation, quickly return the stolen properties, and facilitate the tasks of the UN inspection teams charged with the task of removing the weapons of mass destructon. Iraq must also pledge not to perpetrate or support any act of terrorism or subversion.

The council urges the international community to continue the pressure on the Iraqi regime so that it may commit itself to the full implementation of all the UN resolutions. While reaffirming its full eagerness for the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, the council places full responsibility on Iraq for the acts of bloody tyranny to which the fraternal people of Iraq are being subjected and any other humanitarian sufferings to which it is subjected as a result of the Iraqi regime refusing to implement Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 concerning Iraq's needs for food and medicine.

The council reviewed the latest developments in the relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and reiterated its absolute support for the sovereignty of the UAE over its three islands: Abu-Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra. It reaffirmed its support for all the peaceful measures and means taken by the UAE to restore its sovereignty over the islands.

The ministerial council condemns again the Serbian aggression on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the perpetration by Serbian forces of the most vile crimes of mass annihilation and their practice of the policy of ethnic cleansing, indiscriminate killing, organized rape, terrorism, expulsion, starvation, and the destruction of homes and places of worship. It demands that the UN Security Council take all necessary and urgent measures to enable the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to exercise its right of self- defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, including the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on it.

In light of Security Council Resolution 836, the ministerial council demands that the Security Council take all the measures permitted under Article 42, chapter seven, of the UN Charter to restore international security and peace, to force the forces of aggression comply with legitimate international resolutions, to prevent the aggressors being rewarded by preventing any change in the demographic composition or the realization of territorial gains by imposing a de facto policy and forcing the Serbian forces to withdraw and respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ministerial council also demands that the international community intensifies sanctions and redoubles pressures on Serbia and Montenegro.

The council expresses its concern over the regrettable incidents that took place recently against UN forces in Somalia and hopes that the recent Security Council resolution will strengthen the process of peace and security in that brotherly country.

On the basis of the agreement reached by the foreign ministers of the signatories of the Damascus Declaration at their sixth meeting last September in Doha, Qatar, on holding their seventh meeting in Abu Dhabi at the kind invitation of the UAE Government, the ministerial council looks forward to that meeting, which will be held in Abu Dhabi on 12 June, to continue the cooperation among the eight countries that has been prevalent at all the previous meetings. The council welcomed Eritrea's independence and said it looks forward to strong relations, compatible with historical ones, which will contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the region.

On the economic and cultural front, the council reviewed the minutes of the responsible ministerial committees and welcomed the positive outcome of the joint meeting between GCC foreign ministers and the EC.

It expressed hope that the meeting which is to be held next month by the two sides will reach practical proposals to fulfill the joint interest of the two sides.

The Ministerial Council expressed its satisfaction with the positive results of the first GCC-U.S. businessmen's conference.

Issued in Riyadh on 18 Dhu Al-Hijjah 1413, corresponding to 8 June 1993.

Palestinian-Egyptian Differences at Amman Meeting Noted

JN0806121993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jun 93 pp 1, 16

["News analysis" by Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpts] Despite the strict secrecy that surrounded the day-long closed meeting of the foreign ministers of the cordon states—Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Egypt—which was held at the Royal Cultural Center on 6 June, leaked information indicates that sharp and hot differences erupted between some participants in the meeting.

The Palestinian delegation to this meeting was headed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. It comprised Sulayman al-Najjab and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, members of the PLO Executive Committee; al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman; Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating Palestinian team; and his deputy Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat. According to the leaked information, the Palestinian delegation did not come to the Amman meeting with a clear stand on whether or not to attend the 10th round of negotiations. [passage omitted]

When Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi proposed that the Arab foreign ministers discuss other options, leaving it up to the Arabs to decide whether or not to go to the next round, and when he affirmed that the Palestinian leadership has not yet made a decision, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who headed his country's delegation, attacked this position.

Musa said: I know that the Palestinian delegation is going to the 10th round of negotiations. So why is the delegation to this meeting saying that the Palestinian leadership has yet to make a decision?

After the Egyptian foreign minister concluded his remarks, a tense atmosphere prevailed the meeting and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi left the conference room in protest against the Egyptian minister's remarks. This embarrassed the Palestinian delegation. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh were seen leaving the conference more than once.

Although journalists were asked to leave the Royal Cultural Center, available information indicates that the Arab delegations were pressuring for the declaration of their decision to go to the 10th round of talks scheduled to be held mid-June. However, in light of the Palestinian delegation's reservations and insistence, the decision on agreement to attend the next round of talks was not mentioned in the meeting's final statement. [passage omitted]

The point that was not decided on until the early minutes of yesterday morning was whether or not to send an Arab delegation to Washington to discuss the full-partner concept, the commitments and assurances made through the letters of invitation, the Bush initiative, the negotiations' point of reference, geographic sovereignty, and Jerusalem. It was agreed that a meeting between the chief negotiators and U.S. officials should be held when the delegations arrive in Washington.

At the same time, no agreement was reached on a U.S. proposal to hold tripartite meetings on each track. The matter was left for further discussions in Washington.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Attack on UN Troops in Somalia

LD0806203593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1805 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Jeddah, 8 Jun (SPA)—Mr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], strongly condemned the treacherous attack on the UN peace-keeping troops in Somalia. In a press communique issued today on behalf of the ICO, he expressed the organization's deep concern following the resumption of the activities of the criminal gangs aimed at destabilizing the situation in Somalia and obstructing the implementation of the Addis Ababa peace accord.

Dr. Algabid also expressed the ICO's deep regret over the loss of life and the injuries suffered by the Pakistani troops acting within the framework of UN operations in Somalia.

The ICO secretary general expressed his sympathy for the bereaved Pakistani families and the government and people of Pakistan and also for the families of the innocent Somalis who fell victim to such reckless acts committed by some factions without any restraint or feeling.

Dr. Hamid Algabid also called on the peace-loving Somali people to fully cooperate with the ICO and the UN troops in order to resolve the Somali crisis and surmount all the obstacles that hamper the process of establishing a lasting peace and bringing about national reconciliation in Somalia.

He said that the vast majority of the Somali people feel sorrow and shame about that criminal act perpetrated by some elements against the UN forces, particularly against the contingent sent by the sisterly Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

He pointed out that UN operations in Somalia have the full support of the ICO and that they are being carried out within the framework of ICO and UN participation in setting forth the question of peace and national reconciliation in Somalia.

At the end of the statement, Dr. Algabid called on the United Nations to take appropriate measures to identify and punish those responsible and to lay down down appropriate provisions to ensure that such attacks on UN forces in Somalia are not repeated.

Al-Azhar Shaykh Interviewed on Religion, Politics

PM0806154493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jun 93 p 8

[Interview with Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, shaykh of al-Azhar, by Ibrahim Qa'ud in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qa'ud] Supporters of the secular tendency call for the separation of religion from state and the restriction of religion's role to teaching centers, mosques, and the relationship between people and their God, that is all.

[Jad-al-Haqq] The theory of separating religion and politics emerged in a non-Islamic environment known to the men of culture and history in Europe. The church's control of the people exceeded all boundaries. What happened resulted in the emergence of secularism and the idea of separating religion and politics or the church and civilization. That does not exist in our Islam or our region, because since its revelation Islam has coexisted with religion and everyday life, performing its duty toward both God and the people. There is no monasticism or concentration on worship in Islam. The glorious Koran says: "And when the prayer is finished, then may you disperse through the land and see the country of God." So Islam does not know secularism in that way, because Islam is religion and life and does not separate the two. [passage omitted]

[Qa'ud] What about the mosque's discussion of political, economic, or other issues?

[Jad-al-Haqq] What do we mean by politics? If it means insulting people, that is not the politics of Islam. When the prophet, peace be upon him, wanted to criticize a saying or action he used to say: "Why do some people do or say so and so?" He never named anyone, nor did he insult anyone. If the mosque preachers use the same criterion, they can talk about any issue, because the objective of exposing an undesirable and forbidden action is that people should refrain from it, but on the basis of the line pursued by the prophet, peace be upon him. Once again: There is absolutely no separation between religion and politics. What does politics means? It means the things by which people are governed, and governing people requires promotion of virtue and repudiation of vice. So the mosque is the first place for that, but in accordance with the rules specified by the prophet and the glorious Koran: "Invite all to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious." [Koranic verse] [passage omitted]

[Qa'ud] Did the extremist groups emerge from the cloak of the Muslim Brotherhood or the secret organization of this group, or are they the product of present political and economic conditions in some Islamic countries?

[Jad-al-Haqq] As far as I know, the Brotherhood emerged as a religious call to correct concepts and guide Muslims to comply with the teachings of the Koran, whether with regard to worship or daily dealings—which is praiseworthy and desirable. When the Brotherhood deviated from their call to take up politics—and politics is not forbidden, provided that a special method is used in politics—violence was involved. Thus they moved out of the circle defined by Islam. With regard to the groups which have other political or social ideologies, what violates Islam should be discarded and what follows all rules of Islam should be upheld and followed. All the unrest that takes place has nothing to do with Islam. This is because Islam does not approve of aggression or violence as a means to reach power. [passage omitted]

[Qa'ud] Is the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis and the war of annihilation against Muslims there one of the results of the Islamic world's weakness, and is it expected to be repeated in other regions inhabited by Muslims?

[Jad-al-Haqq] That is clear without doubt. Some 500 years ago Muslims were attacked in Andalusia. They were expelled, killed, or forced to abandon their religion and homes. It is happening now in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The same is happening in India and in other areas where Muslims live as minorities. [passage omitted]

[Qa'ud] Does Europe's weakness vis-a-vis what is happening in Bosnia reflect a deep-rooted hostile position toward Islam and Muslims?

[Jad-al-Haqq] I do not call it weakness. It is a deliberate position designed to protect the existing situation so that those aggressors can seize all the resources of Muslims and deport them from their own country. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Delegates, Leadership Plan Talks Strategy in Amman

Steering Committee To Attend

TA0806150993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Jun 93 p 13

[Text] Jerusalem—Some members of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee will leave today for Amman to meet with the Palestinian leadership.

The Palestinian delegation's steering committee consists of Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Dr. Nabil Qassis, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Ghassan al-Khatib, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, and Nazmi al-Ju'bah.

The Palestinian meetings are expected to be held today and will be attended by some members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council, in addition to members of the delegation. They will discuss Palestinian participation in the 10th round and the Palestinian position on the Palestinian-U.S. talks in Washington.

A small Palestinian delegation will leave for the United States upon the conclusion of Palestinian consultations.

'Arafat Consults Leaders on 10-Point Memo

JN0806124693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Amman, 8 Jun (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, began here today intensive contacts and consultations with members of the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestine National Council [PNC], and Palestinian leaders in Jordan.

An INA correspondent in Amman cited informed press sources as saying that the Palestinian president had held consultations with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, and PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, mainly dealing with the Palestinian 10-point memorandum on the settlement negotiations, reportedly given to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The sources affirmed that talks with Palestinian leaders focused on a proposed declaration of principles to be discussed by a Palestinian delegation leaving for Washington within the next 24 hours.

The meetings also reviewed the outcome of talks between 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan, as well as the coordination meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab states involved in the peace process, which concluded here yesterday.

Previous Rounds Reviewed

JN0806203093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations at his place of residence in Amman this evening. Several PLO Executive Committee members attended.

During the meeting, they conducted a comprehensive review of the peace process, especially the ninth round, the obstacles Israel created by refusing to implement international resolutions, and the increasing repressive Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

The conferees discussed the results of the meetings of the foreign ministers of Arab countries involved in the peace process. The meeting in Amman Sunday [6 June] stressed Arab national principles and the need to implement international resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

The participants reviewed the Palestinian position during the previous round, as well as the position to be adopted during the upcoming round in light of the increasing repressive Israel practices in the occupied territories. These practices reached their climax with the tightening of the siege imposed on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, especially in Jerusalem.

PNC To Plan Comprehensive Dialogue

LD0906081593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has decided to charge the Palestinian National Council with carrying out the necessary preparations to conduct a comprehensive national dialogue within the framework of the PLO. A responsible Palestinian source yesterday evening mentioned that the Palestinian leadership affirms its concern for the continuation of the peace process, and achieve progress in all its courses on the basis of legitimacy.

He added that the Palestinian leadership, which concluded its meeting last night in Amman under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, approved the working paper which the Palestinian delegation was commissioned to study with the U.S. Administration before the convening of the tenth round of talks, which was officially announced last night that they would convene in Washington on 25 June.

The same source said that, after studying the results of the meetings of the Arab countries concerned with the talks, the Palestinian leadership looks for the success of the Arab efforts currently exerted to provide the best conditions for making the peace process successful, and removing the obstacles which the Israeli Government has created. It also looks for the fulfilment of the promises which the U.S. Administration has made.

Reports of 'Abd-al-Shafi's Resignation Denied

TA0806171293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Informed sources in Gaza affirmed to our correspondent that they received reports from the Jordanian capital at noon today indicating that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, submitted his resignation. These sources added that the intensive efforts exerted by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat throughout last night failed to dissuade Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi from submitting his resignation. This report has not been confirmed by any other source.

In a related development, Palestinian delegation sources, citing Sami Abu-Samahdanah, director of the delegation's center in the Gaza Strip, refuted this report to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Delegation To Leave for Talks in Washington

JN0906064993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A Palestinian delegation will leave for Washington in a short while to hold talks with the U.S. Administration on the peace process and the U.S. role in supporting the peace march. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy leader of the Palestinian negotiating team, told our radio

that the formation of the delegation was determined yesterday during the Palestinian meeting which was held in Amman under Yasir 'Arafat.

Apart from 'Urayqat himself, the delegation comprises Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, and Hanan 'Ashrawi, Nabil Qassis, Zakariya al-Agha, Sami al-Kilani, and Ghassan al-Khatib, who is a member of the Palestinian People's Party, which boycotted the ninth round of talks.

'Urayqat also said that during the Palestinian meeting, the two deputy speakers of the Palestine National Council were asked to prepare for a comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue.

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on U.S. Talks

JN0906071993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A Palestinian delegation, led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, is scheduled to leave for Washington today for talks with the U.S. Administration on the next round of Arab- Israeli negotiations. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi has said that the results of these talks will determine the decision on participation in the next round. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the delegation will discuss with the Americans the current U.S. position, obstacles to the negotiations, and the letter the Palestinians addressed to the U.S. Administration in which they stressed that Israel should abide by the terms of reference of the negotiations and apply the land-for- peace principle. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat: Reassurances Sought

NC0806135493 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Amman, June 8 (AFP)—Palestinians concerned about U.S. bias toward Israel are travelling to Washington to ask for U.S. reassurances on the Middle East peace talks before they resume next week, a Palestinian delegate said Tuesday [8 June].

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, assistant head of the Palestinian negotiating team, said he and other delegates will ask for "written answers" on the "U.S. role in the peace process" when they meet U.S. State Department officials Thursday.

They want Washington to explain its silence over an Israeli crackdown on the occupied territories which violates the terms on which the peace process was launched in October 1991, 'Urayqat told AFP.

"According to the terms of reference of the peace process no party has the right to take measures on the ground likely to harm the process," 'Urayqat went on.

"We want Washington to put down in writing its known positions on East Jerusalem, whose annexation it never recognized, on the illegality of (Jewish) settlements in the occupied territories as well as the principle of exchanging land for peace," he said.

These are "fundamental questions of the peace process."

"We believe that the United States is not fulfilling its role of full partner, nor of mediator, nor of arbiter and that their attitude is biased toward Israel, which represents a threat to the entire peace process," he said.

'Urayqat also said Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat was to meet here in the Jordanian capital later Tuesday with Palestinian negotiators and members of the PLO executive committee.

The meeting is to "examine the U.S. role in the peace process and the idea of a national and comprehensive Palestinian dialogue in the framework of PLO institutions," he said.

PLO factions like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is opposed to the peace talks, called for the meeting. 'Arafat met in private with King Husayn of Jordan earlier Tuesday.

The 10th round of direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese is due to start in Washington next Tuesday, but U.S. officials say they are still awaiting confirmation from the parties.

Al-Khatib on PPP Participation

TA0906062393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Report on a telephone interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by correspondent in the territories Udi Segal, on 9 June; remarks by Ghassan al-Khatib recorded in English]

[Text] [Segal] The resumption of the participation of the members of the Palestinian People's Party [PPP] in the peace talks depends on the results of today's talks in Washington. This remark was made this morning to IDF Radio by Ghassan al-Khatib, one of the two PPP representatives on the Palestinian delegation. The two suspended their participation in the peace talks and did not attend the previous round of talks. Now that al-Khatib is going to Washington with Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, their return to the negotiating table is again possible.

With the help of the Solan Communications Company, we spoke on the phone this morning with al-Khatib, who is staying at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman.

[Al-Khatib] Going to Washington does not mean necessarily that we are joining the next round.

[Segal translates and continues] The results of the preliminary discussions in Washington will, in fact, constitute a significant part of the series of considerations that will determine whether we will return to the talks, he said.

The Palestinians hope that in the discussions, the Americans will promise to exert pressure on Israel regarding the closure on the territories. Furthermore, the Palestinians will ask the Americans to change their stand regarding the document of understandings formulated during the previous round which, according to the Palestinians, does not correspond to the letter of assurances to which they wish to adhere.

[Al-Khatib] We are going to ask the United States to make efforts to bridge the gaps, but provided that these efforts are in harmony with the letter of assurances.

[Segal translates and continues] They will ask the Americans to act in accordance with the letter of assurances, which is phrased differently than the document to which the Americans agreed in the previous round of talks, al-Khatib said.

In several hours, at noon today, the representatives of the Palestinians delegation will leave Jordan en route to Washington.

Al-Husayni Denies Palestinian Negotiating Team Split

PM0906084293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jun 93 p5

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, "general coordinator of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations," by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Before coming to Cairo you met with the Jordanian prime minister, who was formerly Jordan's chief delegate to the peace negotiations. What is the significance of that meeting?

[Al-Husayni] There are continuous meetings between us and officials in Amman all the time. This time the meeting focused on the Jordanian Government's new concept and the general current situation in the occupied territory. The significance of the meeting stems from the appointment of a former delegate to the peace negotiations as prime minister.

To us, that confirms, firstly, that the current situation is the center of attention more than at any other time in the past. This Jordanian step makes decisionmaking at close range more possible for this prime minister than any other Jordanian prime minister when it comes to the peace process, so that when the negotiations reach the point of making firm decisions, such decisions would be more positive and based on clear foundations known to the Jordanian official.

[Abu-Husayn] The issue of the Libyan visitors has caused considerable confusion regarding the question of normalization with Israel. What effect has that had on the nature of the negotiations? Will the ministers of the states involved in the negotiations discuss this matter?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, we will not talk about normalization with Israel now. All our efforts will concentrate on enhancing the peace process. Normalization undoubtedly comes at a late stage and we do not want that to come before the peace process steps. As regards the Libyan delegation, we are now tackling that issue at the highest level but quietly and without statements in the media. We hope that what happened will prompt coordination in the future before any unilateral step is taken.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, will the 10th round produce better results than the previous round?

[Al-Husayni] Since the end of the ninth round much has been said at the Palestinian level and in Arab-Palestinian contacts. There will be an assessment of all that at the cordon states foreign ministers meeting in Amman. I believe that the ninth round was the first round of serious negotiations since Madrid. It went well until Rabin's government faced an internal cabinet problem which apparently influenced the performance of the Israeli negotiating team and decisionmakers. The situation started getting complicated in the second week of the ninth round.

[Abu-Husayn] What do you think of the U.S. State Department's statement at the end of the round and the so-called U.S. declaration? What are the positive aspects of that declaration?

[Al-Husayni] The U.S. declaration was made with the specific aim of ensuring that a 10th round is held. The effect of that declaration then ended and it became pointless. Furthermore, we were not happy about the way the declaration was made and about its wording.

[Abu-Husayn] So in what context will the 10th round start?

[Al-Husayni] Concentration will be on the Palestinian draft declaration of principles which we talked about in the last round.

[Abu-Husayn] Did Egypt propose a compromise draft between the Palestinian and Israeli drafts to make agreement on a declaration of principles possible?

[Al-Husayni] We have received nothing of that kind but Egypt is always doing its best to boost the peace process.

[Abu-Husayn] What took place at your meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa?

[Al-Husayni] We discussed several points related to negotiation details.

[Abu-Husayn] Did Dr. Usamah al-Baz (director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs) offer anything new, particularly as he had just returned from Washington?

[Al-Husayni] There were U.S. assurances about playing the part of full partner and that Washington was prepared to continue to play that part, although that depended on the internal situation in the United States.

[Abu-Husayn] What about your visit to Washington this week? Will you offer a new Palestinian concept?

[Al-Husayni] I will propose what we proposed before and will also try to get a reply to the message the PLO sent the United States on the U.S. role and certain positions taken on certain issues and ways of tackling that, and our views on that and on what the U.S. role should be in the future.

[Abu-Husayn] Did the Palestinian message raise the importance of resuming the U.S.-PLO dialogue?

[Al-Husayni] Resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is an issue which is always raised at meetings with the Americans. We are calling for official meetings with the PLO and its leadership in Tunis on the grounds that we have always represented the PLO in our talks with the U.S. Administration.

[Abu-Husayn] It has been rumored that Cairo is trying to host a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue at ambassadorial level. How true is that?

[Al-Husayni] No comment.

[Abu-Husayn] How true are the claims about differences within the Palestinian negotiating delegation and about conflict between your position and that of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Hanan 'Ashrawi?

[Al-Husayni] Ther is no split within the Palestinian delegation. In the final analysis, we represent the official body of the PLO and consider ourselves to be an official delegation at the negotiating table. Outside the negotiation room we only represent ourselves and there is no Palestinian delegation entitled to make decisions. That remains the responsibility of the PLO leadership.

[Abu-Husayn] Some people may be under the impression that [Palestine National Council Speaker] Shaykh al-Sa'ih's resignation has something to do with the differences within the Palestinian delegation?

[Al-Husayni] Everything claimed by the news agencies and the press about this matter is untrue. Shaykh al-Sa'ih's story is linked to his health, no more and no less. All there is to it is that certain aspects were explained and some media quarters wished to portray the matter as one of disagreements and differences of opinion.

[Abu-Husayn] What is the position now?

[Al-Husayni] We believe that it is possible to take quick steps in the peace process and toward implementation of the transitional period but that requires a real Israeli desire to achieve peace and it requires more reasonable positions from the Israeli Government, provided Rabin ends his attempts to make his government just a figurehead trying to please the Israeli right wing. I believe that the average Israelis are ready for peace and they want to end this current phase of anxiety which is exhausting them materially and in terms of security.

[Abu-Husayn] What is the latest on the Marj al-Zuhur deportees?

[Al-Husayni] We are talking about implementation of the UN resolutions in this connection which cover all the old and new deportees. Israel has been given lists of the deportees so that they could return gradually. Israel has so far agreed to the repatriation of 146 deportees, old and new, who are expected to return. Israel still has not taken any new position regarding 250 [as published] of Marj al-Zuhur's deportees.

[Abu-Husayn] Finally, what is the purpose of your visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]?

[Al-Husayni] For some time now there has been an Arab awareness of the importance of clearing the Arab atmosphere, closing Arab ranks, and rectifying the course. We, for our part, are working for a new phase of Arab solidarity in support of the peace process and the achievement of an honorable settlement of the Arab issue.

PLO's 'Abbas on Gaza First, 10th Round

TA0806190993 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-MANAR] What is your response to Rabin's proposal on Gaza?

['Abbas] Rabin proposed to implement the concept of withdrawal from Gaza after agreement is reached on a declaration of principles between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. We do not rule out the issue of withdrawal from Gaza first, rather we accept it immediately provided that our whole concept of the transitional stage and its link to the final stage is made clear in the agreement on principles, and on condition that the principle of "the unity of a solution in the West Bank and Gaza Strip" is established. Consequently, withdrawal from Gaza will be part of an integral solution. On that basis, we are ready to accept Rabin's proposal and hope that this is his intent.

This proposal has no connection to an attributed message by brother Yasir 'Arafat to Rabin during 'Arafat's visit to Austria. We should recall that many Israeli officials, including Likud leaders, have talked about withdrawal from Gaza. However, the remarks of most of

those who talked were enveloped by a great deal of ambiguity and vagueness, whereas Rabin's remarks were clear when he noted the need of reaching a declaration of principles. [passage omitted]

[AL-MANAR] What is your comment to Rabin's statement about not making concessions to the Palestinians?

['Abbas] The statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin about his unwillingness to make additional concessions to the Palestinians was made in the context of the search for solutions to human rights issues, which we have raised more than once in the negotiations and with the Americans. We remind that these issues were included in the six points upon which agreement was reached between Mr. Warren Christopher and brother Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem. On that basis, a special committee was set up in the ninth round to discuss human rights issues in parallel with the negotiations. The Israeli delegation, however, disavowed all the promises and statements and refused to present any proposals. Regrettably, this delegation and the Israeli prime minister's statements linked progress in the negotiations to these issues. In other words, the Israeli Government refuses to cease human rights violation as long as political issues are not resolved. This stance by itself is a clear condemnation of the Israeli Government. It is unreasonable to link two issues in any way, let alone if they involve human rights, particularly deportation from the homeland's soil on which clear resolutions were adopted by the Security Council. Despite this, the issue remains unresolved.

When Rabin talks about not making additional concessions, he is hinting that he has made concessions in the past. This is not true, except for his consent to repatriate 30 old-time deportees from among over 2,000 deportees. In return, acts of repression, demolition of houses, the economic blockade, and so forth have increased. Here, I wish to question the extent of Rabin's seriousness toward the peace process and the future while he keeps sowing hatred and rancor.

[AL-MANAR] Will you go to the 10th round?

['Abbas] I do not wish to talk about the willingness or unwillingness to participate in the 10th round. I do not find it useful to engage every time in a discussion over this issue and waste time between each round over whether continuing in the negotiations is beneficial. Rather, the talk should focus on the issues that were raised and the results achieved in each round. As long as the negotiations are not taking place at the expense of any other activity, mere talk about whether to resume them or not is a waste of time.

Most of the Arab coordination effort in the past was focused on one point: To go or not to go. Therefore, we deemed it appropriate that the five-sided meeting take place early so that the previous round's assessment would be made amid a climate allowing such an appraisal, in light of which the Arabs will decide their position.

The Clinton administration decided that the United States would be a full partner in the talks. This requires the U.S. not to leave the parties concerned to negotiate while it monitors the talks and gives advice from a distance. For our part, we were pleased with this decision because we had been endeavoring to have the administration adopt such a position. When the Israeli and Palestinian sides presented their draft declarations of principle, we imagined that the U.S. role would be used to bridge the differences and present proposals to narrow the gap and bring the two parties to an agreement. The administration, however, overstepped all bounds with a proposal that we had never thought of. That was a proposal for a "joint statement" which made the ninth round talks deviate from their real track. If the administration was seeking to score some kind of triumph to declare to the world, the joint statement was not the appropriate issue for either such a declaration or triumph. Therefore, although we consider the administration's intervention in this round to be better than in previous rounds, it was not sufficient. Moreover, it was not in the required direction. Here, we have to remind that the U.S. Administration gave us promises directly and through Arab states relating to solution of human rights issues and lifting the economic blockade from the occupied territories. Those promises were read out at the five-sided meeting held in Damascus. After the start of the ninth round, however, the officials disavowed all those promises and said: We will try to solve your problems. We did not promise to do so.

Palestinian Factions Meet, Prepare Statement

JN0806193993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The central command of the 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the Arab-Israeli talks] studied the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas, and ended its session after midnight.

The Al-Quds radio correspondent in Damascus has learned that several working papers presented to the central meeting contain a plan to promote the formula of action, as well as the 10 factions' efficiency. The working papers include a joint one presented by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Hamas Movement, and the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. A statement from the meeting is expected later.

Hamas Spokesman Denies Signing Agreement With Fatah

PM0806155093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jun 93 p3

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Denies Signing a Commitment and Loyalty Charter With Fatah"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Jordan, has denied that his movement has signed a new agreement with Fatah.

A Jordanian daily yesterday published what it described as a draft "charter" that, it said, provided for the formation of a unified leadership front in the occupied homeland between Fatah and Hamas to steer and escalate the intifadah, adding that this charter was drafted under the supervision of the Council of Islamic Organizations and Societies in Jordan.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Nazzal said that the agreement referred to was just a draft proposal that the Organizations Council had made several months ago. He expressed amazement and condemned the press fabrication, which, he said, violated the profession's most basic ethical rules.

Nazzal emphasized that denying that any such agreement was signed does not mean that his movement is vetoing future agreements with Fatah, noting that Hamas has reached agreements in the past with Fatah in Amman and Khartoum and that Hamas is always interested in deeper and continuous dialogues in the Palestinian arena to form an essential, strong popular Palestinian base to develop ways of confronting the Zionist enemy and escalate the intifadah and active resistance in occupied Palestine.

Hamas Official Spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah confirmed the denial and said that the alleged statement was fabricated, false, and void.

In a statement he issued yesterday, a copy of which was obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said: We wish relations with the Fatah leadership would reach a fraternal, genuine level that would steer joint efforts toward resisting the occupation and the occupiers only, but what was attributed to 'Abd-al-Latif al-Subayhi, secretary general of the Council of Islamic Organizations and Societies, is unfounded. There has been no charter and no commitment and Hamas has not signed anything mentioned in al-Subayhi's statement.

In his statement, Ghawshah said that the only agreement reached between Fatah and Hamas recently was the 4 January Khartoum agreement and that the Council of Islamic Organizations and Societies had nothing whatever to do with it.

Ghawshah stressed that there is a vast difference between Hamas' fundamental political conception of the Palestinian question and that of the current Fatah leadership. He said that fabrication of false charters is part of an obvious plan to divert attention from the concessions some Fatah quarters are making.

The statement attacked what it called the "Tunis leadership," which, it said, played host to the Council of Islamic Organizations and Societies more than once in Tunis but that this should not be a reason for 'Abd-al-Latif al-Subayhi to make untrue statements that serve the information designs of the Tunis leadership.

The statement accused those in charge of information in the PLO of creating a totally untrue impression of cordiality between the [PLO] leadership and Hamas before every round of negotiations, as is the case now before the 10th round, to deceive public opinion.

Algeria

Terrorist Group Raided 8 Jun; 5 Wounded, 2 Dead

LD0806111293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Security forces at dawn today put a stop to the activity of seven terrorists. The operation took place at 5 a.m. this morning in the (Chateau Rougebis) in Eucalyptus. It resulted in the deaths of two terrorists—the group's leader, called Talha Foudil, known as Lutfi, and his assistant Lachhab Mohamed. In the same operation, five other terrorists were wounded and a Scorpio gun, an automatic pistol, and an Army rifle were retrieved.

The security services clarified that the members of this seven-man group had been subject of an intense investigation.

The national gendarmerie identified the terrorist who was killed yesterday in an armed clash between a gendarmerie patrol and a terrorist group near Draa ben Khedda in the governorate of Tizi Ouzou. The same source said that the terrorist was called Abubakr Boualam from Beni Amrane in Boumerdes province. Security forces had been carrying out investigations on him for almost a year. The terrorist had been involved in several armed operations.

Concern at Externally Supported Terrorism Reported

BK0806130893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] India and Algeria have expressed concern over the escalation of external supported terrorism and fundamentalism in various countries and said that the concerted effort should be made to stop the menace. These views were expressed at meetings the minister of state for commerce, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, had with Algerian leaders during his stay in Algiers. Mr. Ahmed led an eight-member delegation to attend the fifth meeting of the India-Algerian Commission.

Death, Life Sentences Passed in Constantine

LD0806204993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] [Announcer] The special judicial council in Constantine today passed sentences in the case known as that of Aizidine Bouchouareb. The details of these sentences come from correspondent Mohamed Salah Boussaker:

[Boussaker] Death for Aizidine Bouchouareb, life imprisonment for Elias Boudmagh, Hacene Messi, Aizedine Smair, and Rachid Memih, and acquittal for Mohamed Salah Merouani, Abdessalem Barakat, and El-Mekki Filali. These are the sentences passed this afternoon by the special judicial council in Constantine on those accused in the case known as that of the Aizidine Bouchouareb group which is made up of 14 persons, 7 of whom are still on the run.

Numerous charges were levelled against the group, among which are: the formation of an armed gang, aggression on a public force, assassinating the police officer El-Mekki Filali, and attacking the police post in the western passengers' station in Constantine. The remaining seven runaway members of the gang were sentenced to death, among them is Cheikh Ahmed Ben Youcef, imam of the district of Aouinet El-Foul mosque.

[Announcer] In another development, an armed clash occurred today between a Gendarmerie patrol and an armed group five km from the town of Draa El Mizane, in the governorate of Tizi Ouzou. A security source explained to the radio that the patrol was leading a group of prisoners to the Draa Benkhadda court when a group of unknown men opened fire. The clash left one assailant dead and two gendarmes injured; one of them seriously. He later died in the Draa El Mizane hospital. Three prisoners also sustained light injuries.

The same source also explained that none of the prisoners, numbering 21, had fled and that they were all charged with normal offenses.

Egypt

Retrial of 'Abd-al-Rahman Postponed to 13 Jun

NC0806134593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 8 Jun (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court in al-Fayyum today postponed the retrial of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman, mufti of the al-Jihad Organization, as well as 48 other defendants until Sunday [13 June]. The postponement came at the request of the Public Prosecution, which asked for more time to notify [i'lan] the first, fourth, 16th, and 37th defendants. The fourth defendant will be notified at his military unit. Notification will also be sent to the seventh defendant, 14th defendant Hasan Makkawi, who was acquitted in the case of attacks against tourists, and 30th defendant Hasan Ramadan 'Abdallah Shalqani, who was sentenced to death in connection with the assassination attempt against Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. The court released the 11 defendants who appeared before the court today and ordered them to attend the next session. The case relates to incidents that took place at al-Shuhada' Mosque in al-Fayyum in 1989.

The court session was held this morning under tight security measures in the presence of a large number of local and foreign media reporters. Present in the session was 'Abd-al-Rahman, the fourth son of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is a student at al-Azhar Secondary School in al-Fayyum. The court was presided over by Counselor Ahmad 'Izzat al-'Ashmawi, with Counselors 'Abid Rajab al- Aswali and Muhammad Hilmi 'Abd-al-Nur sitting as members. Also present at the court were

Usamah Qandil, chief of the Cairo Higher State Security Prosecution office; Ashraf 'Ali, public attorney of Bandar al-Fayyum district; and Muhammad Fathallah, who served as court secretary.

Investigators: Explosive on Bicycle Caused Blast

NC0806212793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA)—According to a report by the Interior Ministry's criminal laboratory, today's blast in al-Haram tunnel was caused by an explosive charge containing between 1 and 1.5 kg of a powerful explosive material believed to be TNT.

The report, prepared under the supervision of Assistant Interior Minister Major General Ibrahim Musa, says the explosive charge was placed on the rear rack of a bicycle left by a terrorist in the tunnel. The charge contained a timer that disintegrated in the blast.

Maj. Gen. Musa said examination of the site showed the charge on the bicycle caused the blast, not a bomb thrown from a bridge over the tunnel, as was initially thought.

Maj. Gen. Musa added that criminal laboratory experts found 0.8 kg of small nails scattered over the scene of the incident.

Police Arrest 25 Suspects in Wake of Bombing

NC0906104493 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 9 (AFP)—Egyptian police said Wednesday [9 June] they arrested 25 suspects after Tuesday's bombing on the road to the Pyramids that killed one person and wounded 15, including six British tourists.

They made the arrests after searches of apartments and several gunfights near the scene of the crime and throughout the Giza district.

Police added that they now believe a "terrorist" with a remote control device set off explosives inside a package of nails and other bits of metal that had been placed on a bicycle seat at the entrance to a tunnel.

Other "terrorists," the word officials use for Muslim militants, had been watching traffic and signalled to the one operating the remote control device when a tour bus carrying 49 Britons was about to enter the tunnel.

One Egyptian was killed and three others seriously wounded when their Mercedes car, which was just in front of the bus, was hit by the bomb and sprayed with nails.

The explosion blew out the windows of the bus, wounding six of the Britons, according to the Cyprus office of a travel agency that arranged their trip, Paradise Cruises. An earlier toll said five had been hurt.

It said the six were slightly hurt, although one of them, Leonard Phillips, would remain in the hospital for at least another day following an operation to remove metal from his chest.

The explosion destroyed the bicycle and no trace of the bombing mechanism was found, interior ministry officials said.

Israeli Intelligence Believed Involved in Terrorism

NC0806145593 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 2 Jun 93 p 1,8

[Text] The security service's investigations into the bomb explosions in al-Qulali and Madinat al-Nasr have proven that they were carried out by the same group that perpetrated the al-Nil Cafe blast. Investigations have also shown that the two operations had the same planning in which time bombs were used.

An official at the Cairo security directorate has said that security quarters are still searching for the perpetrators and that some extremists, including six who entered the country during April and May, are suspected of involvement in these attacks.

Meanwhile, security sources have told AL-AHALI that the security service has placed five members of the Israeli Intelligence Service under surveillance after receiving confirmed information that they are involved in certain terrorist operations and cooperate with extremists in Egypt. Three suspects believed to be involved in terrorist operations are currently being interrogated. The perpetrators of these operations have not yet been identified.

It is worth noting that the security service has seized well over 20 Israeli Uzi machine guns, hand grenades, and various types of weapons when some defendants were arrested.

The military prosecution has completed its interrogation of 86 extremists involved in four terrorist cases. The prosecution charged them with planning to assassinate a number of state security officers in Asyut, Qina, al-Minya, Cairo, and al-Jizah and possessing unlicensed weapons.

Iranian Bid for Nuclear Technology Noted

NC0806162493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Sources at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna have pointed out that the Iranian Government is doing all it can to enhance its nuclear capability by seeking the advice of scientists from the republics that seceded from the former Soviet Union. The same sources added that the ruling regime in Tehran, taking advantage of the extremely low standard of living in these countries, is offering these scientists generous salaries.

According to European military quarters, Iran is estimated to have spent $14 billion on armaments in the past few years, as part of its endeavors to impose its hegemony on the region. Reports from Tehran indicate that the Iranian regime is stepping up its campaign against Egypt, the main obstacle in the way of Iran's designs in the Middle East. The ruling regime in Tehran has resorted to supporting, arming, and financing terrorist elements and training them in Sudan with the aim of carrying out random attacks against innocent civilians, destabilizing the country, and undermining Egypt's national economy.

Syrian Minister on Talks With 'Abd-al-Majid

JN0906101493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo—Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Syrian Ambassador in Cairo; 'Isa Darwish attended.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with a number of issues pertaining to the overall Arab situation and the role played by the Arab League to clear the Arab atmosphere. The talks also touched on the overall regional situation and the Middle East peace process.

In a statement to reporters after the meeting, Qaddur asked the United States and Russia, as cosponsors of the peace conference, to play a more active role in the Middle East peace process.

Qaddur added that our expectations from the 10th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks are linked to the Arabs' true commitment to the peace process. He noted that progress in the peace talks is not contingent upon the Arab states, since they have already underscored their commitment and serious desire to achieve peace, but rather on the role that the United States could play in this regard, particularly because it promised to play the role of a full partner in the talks, and also on the role Russia, as a cosponsor of the peace conference, could play to promote the peace talks. An Israeli commitment to peace, he noted, is also crucial in this regard.

Qaddur called on Israel to comply with the terms of reference and resolutions governing the peace process. He added: Once this happens, then progress could be expected. Israeli positions have not thus far shown an Israeli desire to achieve peace. In contrast, the Arab sides taking part in the peace talks have demonstrated their desire for peace.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said: Syria has underscored its position clearly during the coordination meeting recently held in Amman by the Arab sides directly concerned with the peace process. He said that coordination meetings are usually held in the aftermath of each round of peace talks. During these meetings, he added, positions are coordinated, peace talks rounds are evaluated, and preparations for the next rounds are made.

Concluding his statement, Qaddur affirmed that Israel has failed to show a true desire to advance the peace talks, noting its intransigence during the Washington talks. He also mentioned the continued Israeli repression against the Arabs of the occupied Arab territories.

Syria's al-Zu'bi Praises Industrial Facility

NC0806155393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi today visited the industrial zone of Madinat Sittah Uktubar. In a statement to our radio correspondent following the visit, the Syrian prime minister said that any attempt to export terrorism to Egypt cannot undermine the cohesion of the Egyptian people, adding that what is happening now in Egypt is merely a summer cloud that will soon pass. Al-Zu'bi added: We are used to seeing the Egyptian people able to overcome crises, predicaments, and obstacles, thanks to their solidarity with their leadership and their deep belief that confronting terrorism requires mobilizing all popular and government efforts. The Egyptian people, known for their tolerance and genuine values, reject all acts of sabotage, he added.

The Syrian prime minister praised the current industrial renaissance in Egypt. He pointed out that the Madinat Sittah Uktubar is one of the bastions of national industry. He praised the facilities given to investors to set up giant industrial projects to boost the national income.

Regime Behavior Seen Paving Way for Extremists

NC0806195693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Jun 93 p 6

[Article by Ibrahim Disuqi Abazah: "The Ready Heir!!"]

[Text] How could you expect anything good to happen?

The government is confiscating all the alternatives and ruining all the possibilities. The president is careful to bar the way to all change. No one in this country is able to succeed the president or change his regime. No political force is able to fill the vacuum. All that is left to us is to accept what God has given to us and hand our affairs over to Him.

The regime possesses all the instruments of siege and marginalization. It is the regime that gives permission for the birth of new political parties, determines their every move, controls their media power, and monopolizes the major media such as radio and television. The inevitable result is a shrinking of political party activity and a decline in the citizens' confidence and interest in

them. The citizens are then turned into lines of indifferent spectators and loiterers who stand before the regime's doors looking for some gain.

Yes. All the regime's efforts are directed toward purging the political arena of any alternative program by another political party or group. In its view, these legitimate forces must be suppressed by all material and moral means so that they do not constitute a hope around which the citizens can rally.

We need no proof. The ruling regime's behavior toward the political parties is very clear. It consistently refrains from meeting with the party leaders to exchange views on public affairs and publicly refuses to read what they write or listen to what they say. It allows its suppressive organs to intimidate them and terrorize them with beatings, as happened at al-Wafd's party congress in Alexandria in 1984 and as happened when the regime's interior minister attacked al-Wafd's leader during an open People's Assembly session in 1987.

It was the president who did not implement court orders declaring 39 al-Wafd and Labor Party candidates the winners of certain parliamentary seats. It is the president who prefers to continue relying on a rigged parliament that the courts have declared null and void.

In light of this siege, the beatings, and the ridicule, how can we ask the political parties to flourish? How can we blame the public for fearing the parties and abandoning them? Why do we become amazed and panicky when young people resort to extremism and violence and when certain groups take up arms against the government? How can we become angry with extremism and terrorism and insist on remedying this phenomenon by force of arms? We have expanded the base of terrorism and extremism with our indiscriminate attacks on extremist groups.

What is certain is that the regime, through its political behavior, is fostering the extremist alternative and nurturing it both secretly and openly until it becomes strong enough to be its successor.

The regime's philosophy is clear and well known: After me the deluge!

To implement this philosophy, the regime attacks all other possible alternatives and renders the political parties, unions, and professional associations broken and impotent, thus leaving the opportunity open to the extremist forces. They alone are able to confront the regime and they alone are qualified to be its successors. By its actions, the regime is reducing the credit of the very political parties it allowed to operate and adding to the credit of extremism and violence. The political parties no longer possess the means to rectify the country's course or steer clear of the abyss. All the doors have been closed to the political parties' reasonable and calm attempts to change the Constitution and carry out necessary political reforms. It is now incumbent on us to expect danger and failure in all our future actions.

The regime's ship is sailing in deep waters and is clearing the political arena of every reasonable and acceptable alternative to extremism and violence. The regime is oblivious to these impending dangers because it is preoccupied with seeking a third term for the president by collecting the support of the forces that are good at applauding and trumpeting his reelection. This is proof of total obliviousness to the dangers of the path ahead and to how crucial the current stage is. Our calamity is great, and our struggle doubly difficult. Our foremost national responsibility is to confront this regime and force it to change. This is the task of all those individuals and groups whose fate it is to bear the responsibility at this stage.

Libya

Kuwaiti Denial of Ending Boycott of Israel Welcomed

LD0806165193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1602 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jun (JANA)—Kuwait has denied news reiterated by the Voice of America citing what it called American officials concerning Kuwait's intention to terminate its commitment to the laws of boycotting the Zionist enemy. This denial came from the Kuwaiti National Assembly's secretary in a statement he gave yesterday to AFP.

A source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity welcomed the Kuwaiti denial. He said in a statement to JANA that the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has initiated swift contacts with the Arab League and the brother officials in Kuwait to clarify the situation, news of which we received with surprise.

The source pointed out that the western media persisted in fabricating and spreading lies and allegations, and in the context of their pattern they are manufacturing lies against Kuwait. The sources added by saying that we are confident that there is no Arab country that would rip Arab unanimity apart, a matter which applies to Kuwait especially since the Zionist enemy keeps on consecrating its occupation of Arab territory, and practising its continuing terrorism against the Palestinian Arab people.

Morocco

Iranian Visit Called 'Springboard' to More Cooperation

LD0806144493 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani received at the ministry last night the visiting Iranian delegation headed by Ali Mohammad Besharati, first deputy foreign minister. The Iranian ambassador attended the meeting.

The prime minister welcomed the Iranian delegation and praised its high-level representation. He mentioned the brotherly historic ties between the two countries, indicating that this visit could be considered a springboard to strengthen ties between the two brotherly Islamic countries.

The talks between the two sides dealt with issues of mutual interest, particularly those which interest the Islamic world, as well as the scope of cooperation between the two countries in various fields—cultural, economic, social, etc.—and means to strengthen and diversify it.

It was decided in the initial stages to exchange visits by specialized delegations between the two brotherly countries to find out the scope of potential cooperation to serve the interest of the two countries in particular and the Islamic world in general. [passage omitted]

Portuguese Officials Discuss Investment Projects

LD0706215493 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Portugal's Commerce and Tourism Minister Fernando Faria de Oliveira and Secretary of State in External Trade Antonio Fernandez de Suza continue their meetings with a number of Moroccan government officials. They were received today by Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada, by Commerce, Industry and Privatization Minister Moulay Zine Zahidi, and by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Cherkaoui.

[Correspondent over video of meetings] During the working session the Portuguese officials held with Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada, in the presence of Foreign Commerce, Investments and Tourism Minister Hassan Abouyoub, a protocol of partnership between Morocco and Portugal was signed whereby the Portuguese government will offer Morroccan entrepreneurs a loan of $10 million. The loan will be used to finance partnership investment projects. The two sides also signed a protocol whereby a credit line of $200 million will be extended to Moroccan financial institutions to support Moroccan-Portuguese exchanges.

The two sides emphasized the need to strengthen bilateral economic relations, to increase the volume of trade exchanges and to develop cooperation in various sectors. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Minister Warns West Against 'Military Intervention'

JN0906080693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jun (INA)—Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has warned the West against any attempts of military intervention in Sudan.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Abu-Salih added that the West must think twice before it attempts to intervene in Sudan. He affirmed that such intervention, if it were to materialize, would elicit a true holy jihad by the Sudanese people.

The Sudanese minister of foreign affairs stressed that the West fears Sudan, noting that it would be making a big mistake if it believed it could effect a change in Sudan through pressures or threats of force.

Al-Mahdi Berates Regime, Denies Accusations

NC0906071693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and al-Ansar leader, has stated that the ruling regime in Sudan has pursued erroneous policies that have created problems it cannot solve. He said that in view of this dead end, certain people are looking for ways to save Sudan from the outside and certain others are preparing for bloody battles. He stressed that civil struggle by the Sudanese people is the best way to save the country from the oppression of the ruling clique.

Al-Mahdi released a statement refuting the accusations fabricated by the Sudanese regime that the al-Ansar sect is engineering plots and assassinatons and is sabotaging installations. He denied that al-Mahdi's home is an arms depot or a place where acts contravening the political guide of the al-Ansar affairs authority take place. He said that the accusations leveled at al-Ansar are fabrications that even those who circulate them do not believe. He denounced the Sudanese authorities' forcefully preventing al-Ansar from performing 'Id al-Adha prayers at the al-Khalifah al-Mahdi mosque.

Kuwait

'No Plans To Improve Ties' With Jordan, PLO

NC0806202093 Paris AFP in English 1921 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Riyadh, June 8 (AFP)—Kuwait is still bitter about PLO and Jordanian support for Iraq during the Gulf war and has no plans to improve ties with them, Kuwait's foreign minister was quoted as saying Tuesday [8 June].

"It is still difficult to convince the Kuwaiti people to have ties with Jordan and its current regime or with PLO members," Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah told Wednesday's edition of the Saudi newspaper AL-YAMAMAH.

Although Kuwait, which Iraq occupied for seven months until it was driven out by U.S.-led forces in February 1991, opposes normalization with the Palestine Liberation Organization, it nonetheless supports the "Palestinian cause," Shaykh Sabah said.

Shaykh Sabah said Kuwait "must not remain the eternal enemy of other (Arab) countries" such as Yemen and the Sudan, also accused of having supported Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait.

"If these countries recognize their wrong, Kuwait will not reject normalization" with them, he said.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's committee for Palestinian aid said it disbursed the equivalent of 2.7 million dollars to the PLO, bringing the total since July 1992, the start of the last Muslim year, to 15.8 million dollars.

The money is raised from the five percent deducted from the salaries of the estimated 200,000 Palestinian workers in the kingdom and voluntary contributions.

With the exception of Kuwait, the other Gulf monarchies—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain—have unfrozen PLO contributions from Palestinians in the Gulf, Palestinians said.

Such funds were frozen after the invasion of Kuwait.

In Doha, Qatar's crown prince and defense minister, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, met Tuesday Mahmud 'Abbas, a PLO executive committee member, and Faysal al-Husayni, the chief Palestinian negotiator at the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Qatari news agency said.

They briefed Shaykh Hamad about the peace talks, set to resume next Tuesday in Washington, the news agency said.

Iraqi 'Agents' Blamed for Attempt on Bush Case Judge

NC0806150193 Cairo MENA in English 1353 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, June 8—(MENA)—Shots were fired at the home of Judge Salah al-Fahd, president of the Kuwaiti State Security Court. A security source told the correspondent of MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) that the house of the judge has been under guard since the judge was appointed to preside at the trial of members of an Iraqi terrorist gang which opened on Saturday [5 June].

Fire was opened at the house of the judge at dawn on Monday from a speeding car. There were no casualties. The security source said a hunt has begun for the culprits who are believed to be agents of the Iraqi regime operating in Kuwaiti territory.

Members of the Iraqi gang were arrested in mid April. They are accused of having plotted to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait. The prosecution has asked for the death sentence for 12 of the 16 accused. One member of the gang is still at large.

Assembly Holds Closed Session To Discuss Security

LD0806113193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0936 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 8 Jun (KUNA)—The National Assembly held a closed session this morning within the present seventh legislative term. The meeting was requested by deputies and not by the government as is usually the case on debating security conditions in the country, especially after the arrest of the members of the Iraqi sabotage network that plotted the assassination of former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in the middle of April. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun told local newspapers that the Assembly will announce the results of the secret debate publicly after the end of the session.

Parliamentary sources expect that the deputies will listen to a statement by Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud al-Sabah on security conditions, which are the subject of the general debate. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Rights Committee Issues Statement on Position

PM0706090893 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Jun 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Legitimate Rights Committee in Saudi Arabia Confirms al-Mas'ari Still Detained; Visits Barred"]

[Excerpts] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari, secretary general of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia, has announced that the committee issued a statement explaining its position on the developments that followed its formation on 3 May 1993. He stressed that copies of the statement were sent before its publication to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and every Senior Ulema Council member. In a statement to the Liberty organization, he described as untrue recent rumors in Saudi Arabia about the release of Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, spokesman for the committee. He added that Dr. Muhammad is still detained. [passage omitted]

Following is the full text of the committee's statement:

Praise be to God and prayers and peace be upon the messenger of God, his family, and his companions:

In order to clear up confusion, prevent falsehood, deny those who are lying in wait the opportunity, foil the malicious, and avert sedition; following the many questions that have been raised about the "Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights," the truth about it, and its motives; and in view of the many statements, analyses, and news reports about the committee in newspapers and on radio stations, likening it to other known human rights committees, describing it as a political opposition or an opposition political party, and so on; and in order to establish the truth and return matters to normal without exaggerations, we would like to indicate the following:

1. The committee members are emancipated interpreters [mujtahidun mataharrirun] of legal meanings who base their work on legal passages [especially from the Koran] which prove the legitimacy of this work, like all the passages urging piety and cooperation to recover rights and settle grievances, and so on. It is not an alternative to existing judicial establishments.

2. The claim that this work is illegitimate requires a legal proof from the Book [Koran], the Sunnah, and the consensus [one of the foundations of Islamic law]. We are devout worshipers according to the legal evidence, not the sayings of anyone, whatever his standing.

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn-Taymiyah said: "Common matters among people are governed by the Book and the Sunnah only. No one has the right to compel people to follow the sayings of an ulema, amir, shaykh, or king. Anyone who believes that he should judge between people in accordance with that rather than the Book and the Sunnah is an infidel." Curriculum (5/132) al-Imam University 1406 Hegira.

He, may God have mercy on him, said: "No one has the right to use in his argument anyone's saying on any disputes. The authoritative sources are the passages, consensus, and evidence deduced from them and corroborated by legal proofs, not by some ulema's sayings. The ulema's sayings are to be debated on the basis of the legal evidence, but not to be used as legal evidence." Fatwas (26/202)

3. In such matters the mujtahid should not be rebuked or criticized, even if he errs, nor should he be punished, harmed, or denied his legitimate rights. This is in accordance with Muslims' consensus (see al-Munayyiriyah messages 3/124).

Shaykh al-Islam said: "God ordered Muslim rulers to follow the law contained in the Book and the Sunnah. And if Muslims argue over a religious question, and if one of those arguing is a student, the rulers are not to force him to follow a ruler's judgment. They should explain the truth to him. If he ascertains the truth revealed by God through his messenger and then departs from it, he deserves to be punished. As for him who says that what I said is my own saying or the saying of a group of Muslim ulema, and that it was my own interpretation, he—in accordance with Muslims' consensus—should not be punished, even if he makes an error, violating the Book and the Sunnah. If such a one is punished, all Muslims should be punished." Fatwas (35/378)

4. Legal opinions or interpretations should be discussed and debated on the basis of legal evidence. They should not be abolished or concealed by force, because it would prove that he who does that has no convincing legal evidence.

5. People are in agreement that there are some excesses and grievances, from which no country is free. This is why the grievances department was set up. The committee's work is the work of a representative of the wronged or unjustly treated. It makes good a deficiency, fills a gap, and draws attention to a shortcoming. Perhaps the closest illustration of what has been said is what happened to Professor Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, official spokesman for the committee, as the sanctity of his home was violated and his family terrorized. He has been detained without trial or a warrant. His family and parents have not been allowed to visit or contact him—which undoubtedly contravenes Islamic principles and damages the country's reputation and standing.

6. This committee is not a judicial authority, as some people thought. Nor is it an alternative or parallel to the religious courts or the grievances department. We do not deny these establishments' meritorious role. But its aim is to present cases before these executive authorities in the service of public welfare.

7. The committee promotes its aims through the means decided by the law.

8. The committee does not consider itself a political party, as some media services announced, nor is it working for political aims. To suspect intentions and aims is a violation of legal boundaries. As for exaggerations and the incitement method used by some media services, it is they who should be asked about that. The committee should not be put on trial on that basis, since

the media interpret any promotion of virtue and repudiation of vice as political opposition designed for incitement.

9. The committee is aware of the difference between human rights, as decided by Islam, and the concept of such rights according to other illegal views. There is no room here to explain this in detail. The objective of that action was to provide a practical example which clarifies that concept in the Islamic context. The learned people in this country are the people most capable of doing that.

Further on Rights Committee Objectives

NC0806084093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 5 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] The Committee for Defending Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia has expressed its complete determination to continue its efforts to safeguard and defend the human rights of all Saudi citizens. The committee apparently was not affected by the harassment campaign against its members, particularly its official spokesman Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari.

In a statement it issued in Riyadh, a copy of which AL-SAFIR received by fax yesterday, the committee said that the continuing efforts it is making and the legitimacy of its activities are fully consistent with Islamic values and principles.

The committee reaffirmed in its new statement that it is not a judicial authority and does not act as a substitute or parallel to the shari'ah courts or the grievance court in Saudi Arabia, and it is not seeking to compete with these institutions, but to act as a defender [al-tarafu' 'anha] to serve the public interest.

The statement added: "People agree that some violations and injustices exist in the country, and that the grievance court was established for this purpose. The committee, however, acts as an attorney for those who feel they are being unjustly treated. This corrects an omission, fills a vacuum, and serves to remind everyone of shortcomings. Perhaps the best example is what happened to Muhammad al-Mas'ari, official spokesman of the committee. The sanctity of his home was violated, his family was terrorized, and he was arrested without trial or judicial warrant. His family and his mother were not allowed to visit or contact him. This undoubtedly contradicts Islamic principles and harms the country's reputation and position.

The statement affirms that the committee does not regard itself as a political party, does not seek to achieve political aims, and tries to achieve its objectives through legitimate means. The committee expressed its displeasure at the actions of the Saudi authorities, which involved the arrest of some of its members and dismissing them from their posts.

The statement was signed by Committee Secretary Lawyer Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Sulayman al-Mas'ari, Shaykh Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-Hamud al-Tuwayjiri, Shaykh Dr. Hamad Bin-Ibrahim al-Sulayfih, Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-Hamid al-Hamid, and Lawyer Shaykh Sulayman Bin-Ibrahim al-Rushudi.

United Arab Emirates

Agreement With India To Counter Drug Trafficking

BK0806131493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] India and the United Arab Emirates have reached an agreement to counter drug trafficking between the two countries. They have also finalized a cultural exchange program for 1993-95. The two agreements were signed today at the end of a three-day official level meeting of the India-UAE Joint Commission in Abu Dhabi. The meeting also discussed the draft of an extradition treaty between the two countries and an agreement to promote bilateral investments. The UAE expressed its keen desire to invest in the refinery, petrochemicals, and tourism sectors.

Our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel reports that India conveyed its intention to purchase more oil from the UAE during the current fiscal year. The UAE also wanted to increase cooperation with India in the fields of planning, agriculture, and industry. The meeting agreed to arrange exchange of visit of experts in these fields and to hold detailed discussions soon.

Yemen

Reform Grouping Fears Clash With New Aden Governor

PM0806083693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jun 93 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Following al-Siyayli's Appointment as Governor of Aden, Reform Grouping Fears Possibility of Clash With Socialist Party"]

[Text] Aden—There is concern in Aden that the appointment of the new governor Salih Munassir al-Siyayli, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau, could be a new attempt to tighten the party's control over Aden—which could result in a clash with other parties, especially its two allies in the new government coalition, that is the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] and the General People's Congress [GPC].

YRG members in Aden have expressed their fear that al-Siyayli's appointment as new governor could lead to a clash with them, in view of his partisan hard line, especially as he is a YSP Political Bureau member.

Observers in Yemen have said that it is the first time a figure holding a high-level partisan post has been appointed governor for Aden. Furthermore, al-Siyayli was interior minister before the unity. And he demanded

that entry licenses should be imposed between the two parts of Yemen, not just the identity cards.

It has also been reported that the GPC nominated a member of its permanent committee for the post of Aden governor, but the YSP insisted that the post be allocated to it, on the grounds that it won most of the 11 constituencies of Aden Governorate in the recent elections.

According to observers, al-Siyayli has been appointed governor but with ministerial rank, especially as he was expatriate affairs minister in the former Yemeni Government—which gives him powers beyond the limits allowed for a governor.

Letter to UN Refutes Envoy's Remarks on Arms Programs

JN0906091993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The United Nations, 8 Jun (INA)—Iraq has refuted the allegations made by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, at a seminar held in March.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali today, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun said that it is regrettable that Ambassador Ekeus should enunciate in this seminar highly extremist anti-Iraq political positions, thus interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs—something which is irrelevant to the work of the Special Commission.

INA correspondent in New York said that on 7, 10, and 11 March, Ekeus held a seminar to which he invited his friends, some journalists, and representatives of some countries. In this seminar, preconceived political positions as well as anti-Iraq judgments were enunciated within the context of an effort to fabricate excuses for maintaining the unfair embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

In his letter, Ambassador Hamdun called into question the credibility of the UN Special Commission and of its chairman Ekeus, as made clear when he chose, in this seminar, to establish linkage between the Special Commission, the Arab-Zionist conflict, and oil prices. Hamdun also wondered whether Ekeus' mission was political or technical.

Hamdun further asked: How can the chairman of the Special Commission describe his commission's work as objective when he espouses such anti-Iraq political positions?

Hamdun explained that Ekeus claimed in this seminar that his commission does not have a thorough understanding of Iraq's biological, chemical, nuclear, and missile programs. Hamdun added: Such an allegation is incomprehensible, particularly since the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] have been working on the issue for two years. Besides, this allegation runs counter to facts, and even to statements made by Ekeus himself in Stockholm on 12 January 1993. In these statements, Ekeus said that Iraq's compliance had been satisfactory, adding that it would be a shame if the remaining five percent of what needed to be done was not accomplished.

In his letter to the UN secretary general, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun affirmed that Ekeus' allegation also conflicts with the conclusions reached by IAEA Director General Hans Blix who said on 20 May 1992: "Over the past two years, we have charted a detailed picture of the Iraqi nuclear program. Now, we can safely say that we feel that we have a full picture of the Iraqi nuclear program. I do not think there is anything missing in this picture."

Ambassador Hamdun noted that the statement by Ekeus that he does not have a full understanding of Iraqi arms programs deliberately confers a strong air of ambiguity on the work of the Special Commission, and also on the immense effort it has made, with the help of significant members of the UN Security Council, such as the United States, France, Britain, and Russia, which, among others, have provided the Special Commission with scientists, experts, as well as highly sophisticated devices and equipment, and also with helicopters and U-2 spy planes.

Hamdun said that the Special Commission has sent to Iraq 56 inspection teams and 13 special missions of experts and carried out 1,100 inspection operations on Iraqi sites and installations from the north to the south and from the east to the westernmost region.

He said that most of these operations were conducted without prior notice and that the Special Commission has not spared prisons, sport stadiums, universities, bakeries, meat storage centers, civilian shelters, sewage systems, irrigation dams, hospitals, and government office buildings.

Hamdun said the Commission has sought the assistance of the U.S. and other artificial satellites to gather information and pictures and used the U.S. U-2 spy planes to overfly Iraq. Until last May, these planes had carried out 137 missions and used toxic gases [al-ghazat al-summiyah] in hundreds of reconnaissance missions over Iraqi installations and sites.

Hamdun said in his letter: The above-mentioned facts lead us to the conclusion that Ekeus' remarks are unobjective, contravene irrefutable documents, and are intended to cast doubt and create confusion to serve an aim that has nothing to do with the material and technical aspects of Resolution 687, and therefore, justify the continuation of the unjust siege imposed on the Iraqi people.

Ambassador Hamdun asked the UN secretary general to distribute this letter as an official UN Security Council document.

Saddam's Adviser Leads Delegation to Nonaligned Meeting

JN0806192493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, adviser at the Presidency, left today for Pyongyang, leading an Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the information ministers of the nonaligned states, due to open there next Monday [14 June].

In a statement to INA, he said Iraq's participation in this conference shows the importance attached by the political leadership, especially President Saddam Husayn, to

the Nonaligned Movement. The participation also reflects Iraq's desire to activate nonaligned institutions, especially in the media.

He added the Iraqi delegation will take part in the meeting of the governmental coordination council of the Nonaligned Movement, since Iraq is a permanent member of the council. The meeting will precede the ministerial conference in which all nonaligned states will take part.

He further said the Iraqi delegation will emphasize methods to counter unjust campaigns against nonaligned states and how certain countries employ cultural and media fabrications to interfere in the internal affairs of the nonaligned states. He noted that colonialist states seek to deprive nonaligned states of their right to communication and culture.

Jasim expressed hope that the conference of the nonaligned states will issue decisions and recommendations to redress the current global imbalance in the field of information and reach a new starting point that reflects an understanding of the current status of information. Some states which have a monopoly of the news media do not hesitate to use them to implement their aggressive, colonialist, and racist policies, he said.

The Iraqi delegation comprises Naji al-Hadithi, under secretary of the Culture and Information Ministry, and 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-'Umar, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

Ba'th Party Official Says Kurds Understand 'Conspiracy'

JN0806160093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—An Iraqi party official has asserted that the exceptional situation prevailing in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan will not last long, now that our people in the region have realized the truth about the conspiracy targeting Iraq.

Speaking at a party gathering in Mosul, 400 km north of Iraq, 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said: In line with our national responsibility, we should mobilize efforts and maintain open channels of communication with our people in Kurdistan, in order to provide them with necessary means of livelihood. Our jihad should also continue until the exceptional situation in the region comes to an end, he said.

He also praised our people in Kurdistan for their valiant, firm resistance to the machinations of agents and traitors seeking to disrupt security and stability in the region.

Kurds Flee After Iranian Bombing, Vow Self-Defense

PM0806153093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jun 93 p 1

[Zuhayr Qusaybati report: "Kurds Accuse Tehran of Backtracking on Its Promises; Iranian Kurdistan Party Center Bombarded; Migration in North Iraq"]

[Excerpt] London—Kurdish sources have confirmed that areas in northern Iraq were exposed to Iranian bombardment for two days until dawn yesterday and that this bombardment resulted in a migration process. The sources accused Iran of not fulfilling the promises it made to the Kurdish government, namely to halt the bombardment operations targeting the opposition Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party's [IKDP] positions in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Ahmad Bamarani, member of the Kurdish parliament and member of the Foreign Relations Committee, told AL-HAYAH over the telephone from Irbil (where the parliament is based) that a migration process took place "as a result of a wave of concern following the bombardment of an international area in which the IKDP's command center is based."

He stressed the danger of the repetition of Iranian penetration of Iraqi Kurdish areas. He said: "Despite our good relationship with Tehran and our endeavor to settle the situation through dialogue, we will defend ourselves." He asserted that the Iranian Kurdistan Party, which set up its command center in north Iraq 10 years ago, has fighters in this area, "but their number is limited. Most of the party's elements are spread inside Iranian Kurdistan, from which it launches its attacks" on Iranian military units and Revolutionary Guard elements.

Asked whether the government and parliament in north Iraq would accept an agreement with Iran similar to the agreement with Ankara, in order to restrict IKDP fighters' movement in the area, as happened with regard to the Kurdish Workers Party (led by Abdullah Ocalan), he said: "The IKDP takes account of our circumstances, and Iran is not Turkey. Our Iranian Kurdish brothers are in agreement with us on not using Iraqi Kurdistan as a staging post to carry out operations and launch attacks against Iran."

He went on to say that at the end of May "the government of Iraqi Kurdistan" sent to Tehran a delegation comprising representatives from the defense and justice ministries, "and Iranian officials promised to stop bombarding north Iraq, but regrettably the bombardment was repeated a short while after the Iranian penetration" into Iraqi Kurdish areas adjacent to the border. He stressed that the government "is not willing to move IKDP fighters from the north."

Bamarani, a prominent figure in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (led by Jalal Talabani), confirmed the continuation of Iraqi military deployments on the front line with Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky Arrives for Visit

Received in Rose Garden

TA0806124293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky has arrived in Israel. He was received in a full state ceremony at Jerusalem's Rose Garden. Chancellor Vranitzky will spend four days in Israel and meet the prime minister and the foreign minister. Tomorrow, the guest will receive a honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Comments on Relations

AU0806171493 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1600 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Armin Wolf report; recorded Rabin and Vranitzky statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Wolf] An Israeli military orchestra plays the Austrian anthem; red-white-red flags flutter in front of the Israeli parliament, at the seat of government, and in the Jerusalem Rose Garden, where the Israeli prime minister receives his official guests. Today it was the first time that he received an Austrian chancellor.

We consider you to be a friend, Yitzhaq Rabin tells Franz Vranitzky, and we appreciate your contribution to improving Austrian-Israeli relations.

[Rabin] The relations between our two countries have had their ups and downs. Our common history has known hard and bitter days, which we may not erase from our national memory.

[Wolf] Now, however, it is necessary to draw the correct conclusions from this history, and this means reaching out the hand of peace and friendship. Rabin said that he was convinced that Vranitzky's term of office would be a time of growing and flourishing relations between the two peoples.

When he was received by Rabin, Vranitzky spoke of the truly historic moment.

[Vranitzky] It is indeed a historic moment—the first time that an Austrian chancellor has visited this country, whose people and fate are so close to many Austrians. This visit is an opportunity to present Austria as a modern and stable country, which has freed itself from the shadows of a past that brought death and incredible suffering to so many of its Jewish citizens.

[Wolf] After a working meeting with Rabin, which took about one hour, Vranitzky then spoke of a new chapter in Austrian-Israeli relations, which will, hopefully, never end. Rabin described the relationship between the two countries as friendly.

Despite all the friendliness, there are also differences in opinion, which are, however, not discussed openly. Before the meeting, Israeli politicians had already made it known that they expected Austria to pay compensation to the surviving Jewish victims of the Nazi regime. However, over the past few days Vranitzky has made it clear that Austria will not pay general compensation.

After his talk with Vranitzky, Rabin was asked whether this topic was discussed. His succinct comment: This is discussed at a different level. He did not say anything more.

The agenda also included the topic of the Middle East peace process. Vranitzky said that he had not brought Rabin a message from PLO Chairman 'Arafat, and also that he would not know why. Vranitzky met 'Arafat in Vienna only recently.

Tomorrow will be characterized by the difficult past. Vranitzky will visit the Holocaust museum of Yad Vashem and will receive an honorary doctorate from Jerusalem University. He will give a speech there on how Austria deals with its past.

Emphasizes Importance of Peace

TA0806141093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said at the start of his visit to Israel that Middle East peace is important not only to the people of the region, but also to Europe. He noted that he has come here to present Austria as a stable and modern state that has managed to free itself from the shadow of the past, which brought immeasurable death and suffering to many of its Jewish people.

Our correspondent Arye Shorr notes that the host, Prime Minister Rabin, expressed the hope that the Austrian leader would become convinced after his talks here of Israel's genuine desire for peace. He voiced appreciation for Vranitzky's contribution to improving relations between the two countries. The two government leaders are now holding a working session.

Meets With Peres, Rabin

TA0806171793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Report by Shlomo Raz]

[Text] A few minutes ago, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky ended his meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres here at Jerusalem's King David Hotel. Israel and Austria want to start the post-Kurt Waldheim era. Vranitzky started the political part of his visit with a working session with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Begin Rabin recording, in English] We believe that today we are in a period that we all hope that will be a

long one, of friendly relations between our two countries, in an effort to find areas of cooperation. [end recording]

[Raz translates the above remarks and continues] Rabin's generalized remarks are referring to economic ties between the two countries. Rabin called on the Austrians to invest in the territories for the welfare of the Palestinian population. The two also discussed defense cooperation, and the prime minister called for Austria's assistance to locate Israel's POW's and MIA's. Chancellor Vranitzky received a wide-ranging survey on the peace process. And basing himself on that, he hopes that the process will end in a positive vein.

[Begin Vranitsky recording, in English] To me, it is quite clear that this peace process has been started from the point of not only a fundamentally positive idea, but with a good deal of hope and desire, and with a good deal of engagement by ....[end recording]

[Raz, interrupting, translates the above remarks and continues] Vranitzky denied he was bringing a message from Yasir 'Arafat. That is not his job, he said. He met with 'Arafat three weeks ago and heard his outlook on the Middle East political process.

From Foreign Minister Peres, the chancellor heard about the multilateral talks and made his view on the situation in Europe known. The two agreed on a series of issues.

[Begin Peres recording] ...such as cooperation between the Foreign Ministries in evaluating the situation, joint cooperation on resources in third countries, the setting up of a fund for scientific cooperation, youth exchanges, continuation of Austrian involvement and support for cultural affairs, and two UN issues, to remove from the agenda antiquated issues and support for Israel's membership of the European group. [end recording]

That is how Peres summed up the subjects the two discussed for quite some time. Just to clarify, what Peres meant when he said antiquated UN issues, was UN resolutions, such as the resolution that Israel has compensate Iraq for destroying its nuclear reactor. Peres, like Rabin, called for Europe to invest in the territories in order to improve the standard of living of the Palestinians there.

Says Visit 'More Than Symbolic'

TA0906080893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night gave a dinner party to honor visiting Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. I believe that my visit is very meaningful and has more than symbolic importance, Vranitzky told the prime minister. Our correspondent Yaron Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Economic distress, certainly; hunger, no. This is how Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sees the situation in the territories, which are still under closure. The reports portraying the situation as being far worse leave Yitzhaq Rabin unmoved:

[Rabin] In any event, they will not affect the policy on the closure. We will have to deal with finding appropriate work for those who cannot work in Israel today.

[Ben-'Ami] Major General Dani Rothschild suggested yesterday that the closure be eased somewhat and that more laborers be allowed to leave for work.

[Rabin] I will not go into details.

[Ben-'Ami] Rabin made these remarks at a dinner party at which he hosted Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

Dr. Vranitzky believes his visit to Israel has real substance, beyond the symbolic importance of its being the first visit to Israel by an Austrian chancellor since Kurt Waldheim was elected to this post. The Foreign Ministry, however, is less enthusiastic. It views the importance of the visit as being mainly symbolic, despite the fact that Austria plays a role in the multilateral talks on water and electricity. This issue and economic cooperation with Austria will be at the center of the Austrian chancellor's talks in Israel. [end recording]

Comments on Investment

TA0906054893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Interview with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky by Jack Katzenell in Jerusalem on 8 June—recorded]

[Text] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin has said that the European countries should invest in the Palestinian economy instead of constantly accusing Israel of human rights violations. What is your response?

[Vranitzky] I agree with him that with more financial investment and engagement by Western Europe in the territories here, a better fundamental basis could be laid for further development. Today we reached agreement that Israel and Austria together will try to tackle this problem and this task, and I will stand up to this. We will find ways and means how to explore the best ways to get at this goal.

[Katzenell] When you made your declaration in 1991 about Austria sharing some responsibility, not just being a victim, it seemed very courageous, because when the Waldheim controversy broke out, it seemed that Waldheim received sympathy from some Austrian voters because of these exposures. How many Austrians agree with you rather than with those who supported Waldheim?

[Vranitzky] I cannot give you figures and numbers, but we had a general election in 1990, and I got 43 percent of the vote—by far the largest backing that any politician got in this election. Polls that we have done more recently show that I have not lost anything out of the 43 percent, so this would be my answer as of today.

[Katzenell] Are you worried about the extreme right?

[Vranitzky] Not too much, no. The extreme right is not large. There are some people, as in many other countries. But if you look around in Europe, it is much less severe and serious in Austria. I am not only not worried; I am of course satisfied because we have done a lot. We have improved legislation; we have improved judicial practices; we have improved various controls; etc. So that anything that you can see now in other European countries does not happen in Austria.

[Katzenell] Is their strength rising or falling?

[Vranitzky] I would not say it is rising, no.

Bomb Threat Received During Vranitzky Visit

AU0906075693 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 0500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] A bomb threat was received during Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's visit to Israel. After an anonymous call, police searched the Austrian Embassy but did not find anything.

Prime Minister Rabin offered Vranitzky Israel's friendship. The Austrian chancellor invited Rabin to visit Austria. Vranitzky will make a statement on Austria's role during the Nazi era today.

Former Air Force Head: Israelis Saved Jordan's Husayn

NC0906070993 Paris AFP in English 0633 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Jerusalem, June 9 (AFP) - The Israeli airforce intervened to save a plane carrying King Husayn of Jordan from attack by Syrian MiG 21s in 1970, a former air force chief said Wednesday [9 June].

Reserve Major-General Mordekhai Hod, who led Israel's air force at the time, told AFP he ordered four Phantom aircraft to see off a squadron of MiGs that had been picked up on radar and were threatening the king's plane.

Israel wanted to "maintain the status quo," he said, at a time when Syria had entered the north of the kingdom after Jordan forcibly expelled the Palestine Liberation Organisation during "Black September."

"The Syrian aircraft, from a base in southern Syria, were heavily armed and clearly in an attack formation and I ordered our pilots to intervene if necessary," Hod said.

"The Phantoms flew between the MiG 21s and the King's plane, which then descended and turned back towards Amman and the MiGs flew northward."

Hod said the Israeli air force prevented Syrian attacks on King Husayn on several other occasions following Black September.

IDF Intelligence Chief on Fundamentalists, Spy Affair

TA0806115093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 93 p A2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor]

[Text] "Domestic security in Egypt has been undermined by the activity of underground Islamic movements," Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, said yesterday. According to him, however, "the Egyptian regime is under no substantial threat at the moment. I believe the Egyptians are doing everything to make sure the regime is not threatened. I know that the Egyptian security services are in control.

"At the same time, this should be followed with interest and concern. To a large extent, it is a local problem, involving Egyptian activists in Muslim underground movements, but Iranian influence is directly and indirectly seeping in, through Sudan as well, which is worrying. Iran's meddling with terrorism can be observed elsewhere in the Middle East and even in Turkey," he said.

Gen. Sagi noted the direct link between the overall difficult processes which the Middle East is undergoing, the social and demographic problems which result in the rise of fundamentalist Islam, and the Arab world's march toward the peace process.

"From the Arab point of view, militant fundamentalist Islam constitutes a greater threat to the Arab regimes than does Israel," Sagi said. Therefore, he noted, the Arab countries are currently adopting a different order of priorities. "Egypt, which has peace relations with Israel, reached this strategic conclusion long before the other Arab countries. From the Egyptian point of view, the peace agreement with Israel is an asset and a very important strategic advantage."

All the Arab regimes are today troubled by fundamentalist Islam, the Intelligence Branch head said. "It is enough to take a look at Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, and in practice almost every Arab country in the Middle East. This is a theoretical paradox," he said, "because we have here an unwritten and undefined similarity of interests between the State of Israel and the Arab regimes around us. Strategically, this also helps the currently ongoing peace process."

[In another report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin on the same page of the same HA'ARETZ issue, Gen. Sagi is asked about the affair of spy Yosi 'Amit. Sagi says that "the appropriate lessons of this affair have been learned." Asked whether this affair has harmed the relations with the country for which 'Amit was spying, Sagi says: "The publication did not harm relations, but I would not want to discuss this affair at all."]

U.S. Questionnaire on Loan Guarantees To Be Answered

TA0806144393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Jun 93 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] A U.S. delegation headed by Thomas Miller, head of the Israel desk at the State Department, is coming to Israel to hold preliminary talks on how to use the immigrant absorption loan guarantees.

The delegation will meet with the top echelons of the Foreign Ministry and the Treasury and will prepare for the next meeting of the two countries' joint committee on development and the economy, which will convene in October. The committee will deal in detail with the uses to which the loan guarantees will be put.

Political sources last night expressed displeasure with the recent announcements by the Construction and Housing Ministry on the loan guarantees. In press interviews, Ministry Director General Arye Mizrahi said that the guarantees will be used, among other things, to develop a transportation infrastructure between the territories and the coastal plain. Surprise was expressed in the United States over the explicit statement that Israel would invest some of the loan guarantees in the territories.

The sources made it clear that contrary to reports, the United States has not "canceled" the questionnaire it sent Israel last week asking it to report on how it was going to use the loan guarantees. The sources said that following discussions between the Israel Embassy in Washington and the State Department, it was agreed that Israel would respond to the questionnaire, but would avoid responding to problematic issues, such as investments in East Jerusalem, if it so decides. That issue will be apparently be discussed in the talks to be held here by the Miller delegation.

Treasury May Waive Guarantees

TA0906070293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jun 93 p A1

[Report by Judy Maltz and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] The Treasury may decide not to utilize all the U.S. loan guarantees in the coming years because, according to an updated forecast, Israel's balance of payments deficit will be significantly lower than that estimated a year or two ago.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat will make the announcement at tomorrow's special cabinet session, which is to begin deliberations on the 1994 state budget. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 9 June reports: "In reaction to a report in this morning's Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ that Israel will waive some of the U.S. loan guarantees, sources at the finance minister's bureau told our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman that the report is incorrect and that Israel will use the U.S. loan guarantees according to the original plan."]

Finance Minister Shohat will present the cabinet with an analysis of trends and an initial scenario for 1994-96. According to that analysis, there will be accelerated growth in exports and a simultaneous slowdown in imports. Therefore, the current account deficit is expected to be about $1 billion annually, much less than previously planned.

Immigration is expected to reach some 120,000 annually, starting in 1994, when world trade will grow between 5 and 6 percent. There will be a partial shift from foreign workers to Israeli labor, with a parallel growth in economic activity in the territories.

The following are the main Treasury forecasts for the coming years:

—Investments are expected to grow by some 20 percent in 1993. A drop in the growth in investments is expected after that.

—Following a drop in 1993, investment in housing is expected to increase moderately in the coming years, especially by private contractors.

—Private consumption will increase 2.5 percent per capita each year, and public consumption will go up according to population growth.

—Exports will rise some 9 percent annually, mainly as a result of the continued fast rise in exports to new markets.

—The unemployment level, which peaked at 11.2 percent in 1992, will decline gradually starting this year and will reach 8-8.5 percent in 1996. During that period, the number of jobless will drop to 180,000.

Peres on Gaza First, Talks With Syria

TA0806152693 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Amnon Levi on the "Erev Hadash" program—live]

[Text] [Levi] We will start off with political matters. Kuwait today officially announced that it is lifting its boycott of companies that trade with Israel; the political negotiations will resume next week in Washington, and this morning, Yasir 'Arafat is quoted by HA'ARETZ as stating, quite surprisingly, that he might accept the principle of Gaza First if this principle is also applied to one of the towns in the West Bank. Naturally, all this calls for an interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is here in the studio. Good evening, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Levi] Let us first of all hear your reaction to Yasir 'Arafat's apparently tempting proposal. You have spoken out in favor of Gaza First and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has not ruled it out. Now, Yasir 'Arafat is saying: OK, but it has to be implemented in one of the West Bank towns as well, just so people will not say that I am neglecting the West Bank.

[Peres] At this stage, I think that the main problem is reaching an agreement on the nature of autonomy and its principles. I assume that this will feature as the most prominent issue during the next round of talks in Washington. Gaza First could be implemented as a first stage after a more comprehensive agreement is reached.

[Levi] I listened very carefully to your reply and must confess that I do not understand what you said about 'Arafat's proposal regarding one of the towns in the West Bank.

[Peres] I do not think that I have to comment on it. I said that first we have to reach agreement on the principles of autonomy and then we could start discussing how to implement it in stages. Nobody—not even the Palestinians, I believe—is proposing that we start off with Gaza First without first reaching agreement on the principles. That is what I meant.

[Levi] Let us move forward to the actual peace negotiations, which resume next week. The truth of the matter is that the average newspaper reader can get very confused trying to understand where things actually stand. You say that we only need a pen to sign a peace agreement with Jordan. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid is quoted today as saying that the peace is ripe to be plucked, while Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is a bit more cool and restrained. So where do we stand? Are we about to pluck the ripened fruit or what?

[Peres] Look, you can turn the whole thing into a comedy. However, I did not only say that all we need is a pen. I said that we had indeed achieved wide-ranging agreement with Jordan, but Jordan does not want to be the first to sign an agreement because it fears subsequent isolation. In other words, one fundamental condition is missing, and my original statement reflected that fact. Therefore, the situation remains unchanged, and there is absolutely no contradiction between the prime minister's statements and my own remarks.

[Levi] Yes, but where do we actually stand?

[Peres] Look, in my opinion, the major problems that we are facing at this stage are with the Palestinians. The negotiations began dealing with substantive issues instead of sticking to procedural frameworks. We even seemed to be nearing agreement on various, albeit few, issues, and these negotiations should be continued. Now, I would like to make a more general statement: Everyone is asking what Syria, Jordan, and Israel are saying. Meanwhile, however, a dynamic for peace is beginning to take root in the Middle East. This dynamic is sometimes stronger than the policies of each of the region's countries. As an Israeli, I have all the reasons in the world to let this new spirit grow stronger and more firmly entrenched because I believe it is the best thing for all the residents of the region and for the State of Israel. Even al-Asad is no longer free today to say whatever he wants. His officials also listen and hear things. The Syrian people also know what is happening, and the Jordanian prime minister, who later attempted to qualify his previous remarks, said one day earlier that he hoped that we would have peace in the Middle East by the end of the year.

[Levi] You have mentioned the difficulties in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Let us now talk about the Syrian track. Next week, you will be staying in Vienna at the same hotel at the same time as Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Will you meet?

[Peres] I very much doubt that. Contrary to previous reports, I have not requested any meeting. I merely said that if we encountered readiness to hold such a meeting, I certainly would agree. However, no preparations for such a meeting have been made. Until now, the Syrians have refused to conduct any negotiations outside the framework of the Washington meetings. They are sticking to this familiar, narrow track, and, at least up until this moment, have been unwilling to diverge from it.

[Levi] So there is no chance of raising the talks to the ministerial level?

[Peres] I did not say that. At the moment, that is the Syrian position. I hope that it will change.

[Levi] I would now like to ask you about several interesting statements you made today before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. In one statement, you said that the United States had offered or at least agreed to give us alternative security guarantees in the event of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The question is what do they mean: financial guarantees, soldiers that will guard the area? What are security guarantees?

[Peres] The previous administration said it was willing to discuss security guarantees. No one sought to elaborate on the significance of such guarantee or their nature. Such general statements were also issued recently, but there was no detailed discussion of guarantees. Clearly, we are talking about guarantees similar in form to those implemented in the Sinai Peninsula or others. However, I would like to reiterate that these are very general statements at this stage because we have not begun discussing security arrangements with the Syrians. We can....

[Levi, interrupting] Let me understand, your statements today at the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee came only on the basis of proposals made by the previous administration or on something that was restated recently?

[Peres] In today's edition of DAVAR, the paper's correspondent quotes President Clinton saying the same thing in general terms. However, the correct order to do things is first to reach an agreement with the Syrians on security arrangements, and then, if it becomes necessary to involve a third party, for instance the Americans or some international body—as was the case in Sinai—then we will discuss it. Look, negotiations must follow a certain order. We are discussing three issues with the Syrians: the nature of peace, the nature of the security arrangements, and, as a direct corollary of that, the extent of our withdrawal. There can be no other way. Now, we cannot negotiate with the Americans before we reach agreement with the Syrians, just as we could not reach agreement, for example, on the placement of a multinational force in the Sinai Peninsula before we reached agreement with the Egyptians. Things must correspond to a certain order, and there is no point in mixing apples and oranges.

[Levi] Mr. Peres, we have to wrap things up, but I must ask you about Kuwait's recent announcement that it was ending its boycott of companies trading with Israel. What practical effect will that have on the average citizen? Will we have new products on the market? For example, some new Japanese cars? Or is this fundamentally a political act, without any direct economic repercussions?

[Peres] I cannot estimate the effect with regard to Kuwait by itself. Our assessment of the damage caused by the Arab boycott totals $2 to $3 billion dollars. Actually, all the aid we receive from the United States is counterbalanced by the losses we suffer as a result of the Arab boycott. I welcome Kuwait's action, it is a very important step, and I hope that additional Arab states will follow in its footsteps. The boycott stands in total contradiction to the international concept of a market economy, laissez faire, and open borders. The Arabs will pay a heavy price if they continue to challenge all that is accepted by the world. Kuwait has therefore taken the first step, and I hope that others will follow in its footsteps.

[Levi] A very nice step, but we still do not understand its practical ramifications.

[Peres] We will witness its practical ramifications if we can put an end to the boycott with all the Arab countries, the boycott that I spoke about earlier.

[Levi] Thank you, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[A related report on Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 8 June carries a recorded interview with Foreign Minister Peres in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles. Peres is asked by interviewer Eli Nisan whether Israel would accept Yasir 'Arafat's assertion that the Gaza First proposal necessitates "the establishment of a corridor through Israel, under international supervision, which will connect the Gaza Strip with Judaea and Samaria." Peres replies: "This is totally inconceivable. There will be no such corridor. When the situation will be one of peace, people will simply drive along the roads, just like in Europe. However, just as a highway does not turn into an international corridor in Europe, neither will that be the case here."]

Rabin Clarifies Remarks on Golan Heights Settlers

TA0806123993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that his remarks yesterday at the Labor party Knesset faction meeting were not intended to insult all the residents of the Golan Heights. Mr. Rabin explained that he was only referring to the demonstrators among them who had violated public order and joined together with extreme right-wing settlers from Judaea and Samaria in their demonstrations.

The prime minister's bureau declared that the prime minister continued to regard the settlers on the Golan Heights as pioneers sent by the state, whose presence there strengthened Israel's position in any decision on the future of the Golan Heights.

Peres Comments on U.S. Guarantees for Golan Security

TA0806134393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the U.S. Administration has expressed a readiness to give Israel guarantees for what it calls alternative security in the Golan Heights but that the issue has not yet been deliberated.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel is considering returning a large number of veteran deportees. This would, however, not be done as a gesture to the Palestinians prior to the negotiations, but during the negotiations themselves, and if Israel finds it the right thing to do. He also said that criteria for releasing prisoners, such as on the occasion of Muslim holidays or due to reasons of age or health, would be considered.

Egypt Proposes Lifting Closure for Drop in Violence

TA0906105693 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 9 Jun 93 p 3

[Report by Yehoshu'a Me'iri and Gid'on Sa'ar]

[Excerpt] Egypt is pressuring the PLO to agree to an exchange of gestures with Israel prior to the reopening of the peace talks in Washington.

Under the proposal, Israel would lift the closure on the territories in return for a decline in intifadah violence.

HADASHOT has learned that two days ago, on his way from Tunis to Amman, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stopped over in Cairo and held a 90-minute meeting with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Husni Mubarak's adviser. The president's bureau said that they discussed various proposals relating to the resumption of the peace talks. Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said that Cairo wants to initiate an exchange of gestures between Israel and the Palestinians in order to spur on the peace talks.

Aside from the proposal to lift the closure on the territories, Egypt is proposing that Israel permit the return of additional deportees from Lebanon and name possible dates for the start of talks on a permanent settlement. [passage omitted]

Officials Recommend Raising Quota of Arab Workers

TA0806141193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, has confirmed that 33,000 inhabitants from the territories are being prevented from entering Israel, some for security reasons and some because they have criminal records. He also told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that while taking into consideration security restrictions, the Civil Administration is recommending raising the quota of workers from the territories permitted to work in Israel in order to ease the economic plight in the territories.

No Additional Funds Allocated for Territories

TA0806135093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] A study of the Civil Administration budget for this year shows that the government has not allocated any additional funds for investment in the territories, according to data presented by Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ora Namir during her visit to Gaza today. Mrs. Namir said there is a sharp debate in the cabinet between some of the ministers and the finance minister on increasing investment in Judaea and Samaria and especially in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon also reports that since the closure on the territories was imposed the Civil Administration's welfare bureaus have received 2,000 appeals from needy families, and some 800 have been approved.

High Radiation Levels Reported at Negev Nuclear Center

TA0406143293

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (SHIV'A YAMIM supplement) in Hebrew on 4 June carries a report by Amnon Avramovich on pages 9, 10, 13, 15 on high levels of radioactivity in the vicinity of the Dimona Nuclear Research Center. The report claims that during a tour of the area, "The gauge on our Geiger counter constantly climbed and finally indicated a level of gamma radiation that was more than 15 times the level registered in Jerusalem two hours earlier." Avramovich notes that "at one point, the counter registered a gamma radiation level of 120 mili-roentgens per hour, which is 24 times the average level in most parts of the country and above the permitted level of exposure for nonemployees of a nuclear facility."

Avramovich asserts that when Israel Television planned to report about the leakage of radioactive waste near Hamakhtesh Haqatan, a canyon which is a popular hiking location, the government attempted to dissuade the television crew from filming at the site, even resorting to thinly veiled threats directed at Israel Television correspondent Shlomi Eldar by former Environment Minister Ora Namir, who claimed that she was acting on Prime Minister Rabin's "explicit orders" and warned Eldar not to become "another Vanunu." Avramovich says that when the intimidation campaign failed and Eldar, with the help of the Nature Reserves Authority, prepared to comb the site with a Geiger counter, Minister Namir summoned him and the director of the Nature Reserves Authority for another meeting. The site was closed the following day under a special decree issued by the Commander of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Southern Command. When asked why the popular hiking site had been closed off, the IDF spokesman would only say that "the area was closed on the instructions of the military commander to safeguard public safety, defend the country, and maintain public order."

Avramovich states that the Nuclear Research Center makes "cynical use" of arguments relating to Israel's "national interest" to "avoid dealing with safety hazards inside the installation and ecological hazards outside" and complains that "under the umbrella of secrecy one is permitted to withhold information, abuse military authority to conceal environmental pollution, threaten whoever dares protest, and ostracize anyone who dares stand up for his or her rights." Avramovich reports that all employees of the Nuclear Research Center sign a declaration of confidentiality and face a 15-year-prison sentence if they reveal any details of their employment. Thus, numerous employees at the facility who contracted cancer from what their attorneys describe as "negligent" and "inadequate safety procedures" and "high levels of radiation" face difficulties in pursuing compensation claims against the Nuclear Research Center, and bereaved family members seeking damages are often threatened and ostracized by facility and government officials.

Avramovich reports that in March 1993, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid visited the Nuclear Research Center in Dimona with a team of experts who were permitted to test gamma radiation levels at Hamakhtesh Haqatan and to take soil and vegetation samples.

In light of the Environment Ministry's subsequent "calming reports," Avramovich asks whether "the Environment Ministry really represents the public and the

interests of the environment—or those of the Nuclear Research Center." Although Environment Ministry officials reported that radiation levels were "found to be insignificant," they refused to divulge any figures. Avramovich also accuses the Environment Ministry of cooperating with the Nuclear Research Center in preventing any independent probe of radiation levels.

The Environment Ministry claims that the "levels of radiation found at the locations that we examined are minuscule and cannot harm hikers. The significance of the radiation levels we found is that a hiker who spends 100 hours in Hamakhtesh Haqatan will be exposed to the same level of radiation as on two transatlantic flights." The Environment Ministry admits, however, that their experts "monitor radiation levels outside the Nuclear Research Center's fence, while facility employees monitor the radiation inside."

Avramovich states that at Hamakhtesh Haqatan, 1 km from where the research center's radioactive sludge was flowing, the YEDI'OT AHARONOT team found "gamma radiation levels of 25 micro-roentgens per hour, which is five times the national average of background radiation. On the edge of the canyon, we monitored radiation levels of 30 micro-roentgens, and near the wadi where the sewage water had collected, levels of over 100 micro-roentgens. In wadis further away, the radiation level was similar to that in Jerusalem." The paper concludes that "if the examinations we conducted were accurate, then such radiation levels pose a threat to the health of anyone spending a lengthy period of time in the region."

The article includes a reaction to Avramovich's report by the Israel Atomic Energy Commission. The commission issued a statement asserting: "We wish to reiterate the fact that probes conducted by all the authoritative bodies—including experts from the Nuclear Research Center, the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, and the Environment Ministry—showed that there are no health or ecological hazards in the area and that Hamakhtesh Haqatan is open to visitors." While confirming that Avramovich found "ostensibly" higher levels of radiation than the national average in the vicinity, the commission notes that Avramovich was told by a senior Atomic Energy Commission official that "the levels of radiation he 'discovered' were characteristic of that part of the country and that if he had examined additional locations, he would have discovered even higher levels of natural background radiation here and there, due to minute and irregular uranium concentrations found in phosphates in the area." The commission stressed: "Such levels of background radiation are not dangerous to humans and are characteristic of many regions in the world (including Colorado in the United States and the French mountains)."

The Atomic Energy Commission asserts that its "contribution to radiation levels in the region is minuscule and that people living in the vicinity of the Nuclear Research Center year round are exposed to radiation levels similar to those of residents who go nowhere near the facility." The commission claims that "the water from the wells in the area is periodically sampled and is free of radioactive materials. As for the seepage of sewage water in Hamakhtesh Haqatan, it has been proved in the past that this were merely sanitary waste and the seepage was stopped." Addressing the issue of employee-related cancer, the commission states that "20 percent of all deaths in Israel (and many other countries) result from cancer. The general incidence of cancer among employees of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Nuclear Research Center does not deviate from the national average. The safety of Nuclear Research Center employees is rigorously and intensively observed in accordance with international regulations, and supervised by independent bodies." The commission goes on to note that "the area around the Nuclear Research Center was closed off on the Army's orders to maintain an effective level of security and prevent the entry of hostile elements," concluding that "Hamakhtesh Haqatan and the hiker paths are open to the general public and pose no health or safety hazards."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0905 GMT on 4 June carries a report on the YEDI'OT AHARONOT article. Interviewed on the radio afterwards, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid says: "Reports are published from time to time alluding to high levels of radiation around Hamakhtesh Haqatan and the Nuclear Research Center. These reports obviously arouse fear, anxiety, and concern. Since I believe that these fears are groundless and completely unjustified, I feel it is my public duty to allay them." Sarid reiterates: "As far as regards the safety of those individuals who find themselves in that area, not one hair will fall from their heads."

Sarid goes on to invite the heads of the Nature Reserves Authority and the Nature Preservation Society as well as "journalists, to come and measure radiation levels as soon as they can, check the results of their probe, and then reach the conclusion that the area does not pose even the slightest danger to its residents." The report notes that an investigation team will leave for the site in a few days.

Survey Finds No Radiation

TA0906110093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] A special survey of the area around the Nuclear Research Center in Dimona conducted by Environment Ministry officials, accompanied by members of the Atomic Energy Commission and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, found no threat of radiation leakage from Hamakhtesh Haqatan. Our correspondent in the south Uri Binder joined the tour:

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid made a historic tour around the Nuclear Research Center in Dimona. Experts from the Atomic Energy Commission and Environment Ministry helped reporters sample and measure radiation in the Dimona area. Their conclusion was unequivocal: There is no radiation in the area, and the sewage coming from the center carries no threat of radiation. The environmentalists will now have to address themselves to the issue of the plain sewage leaking to Hamakhtesh Haqatan.

PLO's 'Arafat Visits, Talks With King Husayn

Discuss Peace Process

JN0806155493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Majesty King Husayn received His Excellency Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed various Arab and world issues of concern to the region, as well as Jordanian-Palestinian special relations.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib al- Tamimi, his majesty the king's adviser for Islamic affairs; and Retired Staff Lieutenant General Ihsan Shurdum, his majesty the king's adviser.

His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President 'Arafat held a private meeting in which they discussed the peace process, the ceaseless Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, and the suffering of the kinfolk in the occupied territories caused by the Israeli occupation authorities' increasing oppressive policy.

King: Israeli Peace Agenda Not Final

JN0806181593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has asserted that the Jordanian- Israeli agenda for negotiations has not yet taken its final shape. He pointed out that there will be no peaceful solution outside the context of a comprehensive settlement to all issues, especially the rights of Palestinians on their national soil.

King Husayn was speaking to reporters following his third meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Amman Monday evening.

Commenting on a statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that Jordan and Israel had reached a peaceful solution which needs to be signed only, King Husayn said: This statement is either distorted or inappropriate. He added that discussions have so far dealt with the agenda, no more, no less.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has also met with several members of the Palestinian negotiating team and the PLO Executive Committee to assess the situation before resuming the peace negotiations mid-June. Palestinians will also address the need to reactivate the U.S. role to make it assume full partnership.

'Arafat confirmed a Palestinian delegation is leaving for Washington tomorrow to discuss the 10 points presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Work Continues on Israeli Agenda

JN0806182893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Report by political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] His Majesty King Husayn this evening visited his brother His Excellency Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat at his place of residence in the Guest House. His majesty was received by Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and al-Tayyib Abd-al-Rahim, Palestine ambassador to the Royal Hashemite Court.

They discussed issues of mutual concern and underlined the principles of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which are marked by coordination, integration, and mutual respect in the service of the national and pan-Arab issues.

Answering journalists' questions, His Majesty King Husayn said: Our cause is one. It is a just cause and we will do all we can to support it.

His majesty said: The Jordanian-Israeli agenda is not finalized yet. Work is still going on to put in an acceptable formula.

His Majesty asserted that the acceptable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is the comprehensive solution that means that all links and tracks should be integrated, particularly the Palestinian people's rights.

Asked by Jordanian television, 'Arafat said his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn affirms the importance of continued coordination and consultations between Jordan and Palestine to support the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights on their national soil.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] As you know, these blessed sessions, without doubt, are always positive and held in a brotherly atmosphere. They also yield results which will, God willing, reflect positively on our joint action, both as Palestinians and Jordanians. Do not forget that in its consecutive sessions from 1983 until now, our Palestine National Council has decided that the relation between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples is a genuine, confederal relation based on the free and voluntary will of the two brotherly peoples. Do not forget that we are part of a single, joint delegation. Part of our concerns, and part of our talks, was devoted to assessing the ninth round and what happened during it. The talks also dealt with the difficulties on the Palestinian track brought about by the Israeli delegation's intransigence and ceaseless attempts to bypass the terms of reference, and what was agreed upon. We also discussed the serious issue of sealing off Jerusalem. This measure contravenes Resolution 242, the principles of the peace process, the position declared by the UN Security Council in more than one resolution, and even contravenes the U.S. position. The U.S. position does not recognize what is

happening in terms of the Israeli attempt to annex Holy Jerusalem. Holy Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine, which will be united with Jordan through a confederation. [end recording]

'Arafat Comments on 10 Points

JN0806183993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat has praised the valuable results of his meetings with His Majesty King Husayn. He said these meetings were fraternal, positive, and fruitful and underline the depth of Jordanian-Palestinian relations as confirmed by the Palestine National Council in its consecutive sessions since 1983 when it decided to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation based on the free will of the two fraternal peoples.

'Arafat spoke to journalists following a visit this afternoon by His Majesty King Husayn to his place of residence. [passage omitted]

Answering a journalist's question, 'Arafat said: The Palestinian delegation, which will leave for Washington in the next two days, will discuss the 10 points we have sent in an official memorandum to the U.S. secretary of state. He declined to say what these 10 points are, saying: We prefer that the Americans announce them.

He asserted that the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations were very negative because the Israeli delegation is refusing to abide by the UN resolution and is insisting on rejecting them.

President 'Arafat said: The U.S. Administration has pledged to do all it can to play a full partner role in the peace process and achieve positive results. This, however, did not take place and Israel continued its oppressive measures and violations against Christian and Muslim holy places.

He said he hopes the United States will play the full partner role if it is serious about speeding up the peace process.

U.S. Central Command Chief Arrives 8 Jun

JN0806192093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] General Joseph Hoar, commander of the U.S. Central Command, and his delegation arrived this evening in Amman on an official, several-day visit to Jordan.

He was received at the airport by Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd- al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Royal Ground Forces chief of staff; the assistant chief of staff for Operations and Training; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Diplomatic Relations With Iran To Be Upgraded

JN0906083593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jun 93 p 30

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Iranian Government decided to raise the diplomatic representation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the ambassadorial level instead of the charge d'affaires level and that the first Iranian ambassador to Jordan will be appointed very shortly. One of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's advisers is among the strong candidates for the post.

Diplomatic relations with Iran resumed in 1989.

AL-HAYAH Attempts To Create Rift With Iraq Viewed

JN0806110893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Jun 93 p 22

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "Alleged Estrangement With Iraq"]

[Text] London AL-HAYAH is still insisting on looking at Jordan through its anti-Iraq eyeglass. It has not given up this attitude even after the failure of its agitation campaign that followed the Iraqi currency measures, and has continued to publish analyses aimed at effecting a Jordanian-Iraqi estrangement, even if it is only on paper.

In a 30 May analysis, AL-HAYAH claimed that the Iraqi currency measure has transformed the Jordanian-Palestinian attitude from that of sympathy with Iraq to reservation if not hostility. It appears that AL-HAYAH finally admitted that the Jordanian-Palestinian attitude continues to be sympathetic toward Iraq three years after the momentous events. However, AL-HAYAH contends that the canceling of the 25 Iraqi dinar bill realized the miracle which the Hafar al- Batin [alluding to the anti-Iraq allied armed concentrations] and the alliance press have always sought.

The Jordanian people's sympathy with Iraq has pan-Arab causes. It does not depend on currency and does not end with currency measures no matter the cost involved. If AL-HAYAH believes only in direct material interests, we remind it that Iraq is supplying Jordan with its lifeline, oil, which others have stopped supplying to us. The value of this Iraqi gift in one year is ten times as much as the losses the Jordanians sustained because of the cancellation of the Iraqi banknote.

Jordanians are aware that the Iraqi measure was not intended against them, and that there was no practical way to exempt Jordan from the measure. Had this been done, billions of dinars that had been accumulated in the Gulf and elsewhere would have flooded into Jordan.

The Central Bank of Jordan's [CBJ] contacts with its Iraqi counterpart on this issue were not ignored as the tendentious press alleged. Iraq voiced readiness to cooperate if the CBJ had a means of ascertaining that the

canceled bills would not find their way into Jordan from non-Jordanians abroad. The CBJ did not find a way of ascertaining this because such as way simply does not exist. Any method of compensation would have opened the door for unlimited and large-scale abuses and excesses.

This information is not taken from the Iraqi side, which remained silent, but from the CBJ itself. Perhaps this information will silence those who want to fish in muddy waters and will reaffirm the conviction of the average Jordanians that their sympathy with the Iraqi people is in order and that the Iraqis have not failed them or stabbed them in the back. Indeed, many Jordanians who speculated on the Iraqi dinar and lost regarded their small loss as a donation to the Iraqi people.

Those who are hostile to Iraq these days are the West and its proteges, the neighbors who covet Iraqi territory and plot to dismember it, and the agent opposition led by the [Ahmad] al- Jalabi group. Can any self-respecting Arab accept to be on their side?

Committee Said To Recommend Election Law Amendment

JN0806063693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jun 93 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Salamah Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman—In a move expected to raise political tension between the government and the political opposition led by the Islamic movement, a special committee headed by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali Monday recommended amendments to the Election Law, introducing a one-man-one-vote system, informed sources said.

The sources told the Jordan Times and the al-Hayat Arabic daily that despite threat of a possible boycott of the elections by the Islamic Movement, the committee had recommended three amendments—a one-man-vote system, cancellation of an article banning members of "illegal organizations" from running for Parliament, and reduction of the voting age to 18 from 19.

The sources expected the introduction of the recommended amendments to the law after the return of His Majesty King Husayn from a trip he is scheduled to make to the United States next week to hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and undergo medical tests.

Supporters of the one-man-one-vote amendment described the move as "very daring" and that said it was bound to "put the new government on a collision course with the Islamic opposition."

According to parliamentary sources, the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood Monday summoned several of its deputies in the Lower House of Parliament to discuss the impact of the expected amendments.

A leading member of the Brotherhood declined comment on the reported recommendation by the special committee, saying that no official decision has yet been announced about amendments to the election Law.

Brotherhood leader and House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat said Dr. al-Majali has assured him that no decision had been made and any such move would be preceded by national consultations.

Dr. al-Majali said last week that the government "may change" the law to adopt the one-man-one-vote system. Deputies close to the government said al-Majali's decision was "in harmony" with the King's letter of appointment in which he called the new premier to "adopt all posible and appropriate measures to supervise the process of elections based on the constitution, which guarantees all members of the family, men and women, full equality in rights and obligations."

Unofficial studies have indicated that adopting the one-man-one- vote system may reduce the Islamic movement's advantage of "transferring" votes and "carrying several candidate within the same constituency."

The proposed amendments are also opposed by several deputies from other political parties as well as would-be tribal candidates who fear that such a change would weaken their chances.

Al-Majali Assures 'Arabiyat on Election Law

JN0806070693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jun 93 pp 1,10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman—The government has not taken any decision to amend the Election Law and any such move would be adopted only after national consultations involving all sectors of the society, Parliament Speaker Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat quoted Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali as saying Monday [7 June].

Dr. 'Arabiyat, a leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood movement which opposes any amendment to the law without parliamentary approval, said he discussed the issue "in general" with Dr al-Majali during a meeting at the Prime Ministry on Monday.

The prime minister said the government had not taken any decision in this regard and that any move in this context would be preceded by consultations in which everybody would participate," Dr. 'Arabiyat told the Jordan Times.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Dr. al-Majali told Dr. 'Arabiyat that the new government, which took office late last month, was keen on "implementing the directives of His Majesty King Husayn as contained in the letter of designation."

The government of Dr. al-Majali is primarily entrusted with the task of overseeing the next general elections, expected to be held later this year.

In his letter of designation to the al-Majali government, the King said: "I am sure that you will guarantee for all men and women full equality in rights and duties and facilitate for all people the right to vote for the coming Parliament in a fair and free manner."

This was interpreted by most observers as leaving the door open for changes in the Election Law towards a one-man-one-vote system. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Arabiyat said Monday he was satisfied with the assurance provided by the prime minister. "We are all going to participate in and contribute to any process related to the Election Law," he said in a telephone interview. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Arabiyat, who had called on Dr. al-Majali to congratulate him on the formation of his government, was quoted by Petra as saying in a separate statement that it was "important to maintain and strengthen the democratic process and support and nurture the principles of (democratic) institutions and the prevalence of law in the country."

"The democratic institutions in Jordan have a basic and essential role to play in this process and in enhancing national unity,"Dr. 'Arabiyat was quoted as saying.

The House speaker told the Jordan Times that he and Dr. al-Majali also discussed the 10-month-old Middle East peace process, another area where the Brotherhood is at odds with the government.

"The prime minister noted that progress might vary in the diferent tracks of (Arab-Israeli) negotiations since each party has different issues on its agenda," Dr. 'Arabiyat said. "But he reaffirmed that no agreement would be reached except as part of a comprehensive settlement to the conflict."

Dr. al-Majali, who headed Jordan's negotiating team to the peace talks with Israel until his appointment as prime minister, also reiterated the Kingdom's stand that "any decision related to the Palestinian dimension of the conflict has to be taken by the Palestinian delegation itself" and that the Kingdom would not assume "any role in this regard," Dr. 'Arabiyat said.

Dr. 'Arabiyat, widely seen as representing the moderate wing of the Brotherhood, declined further comment.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Convoy

NC0706132493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Islamic Resistance fighters attacked an Israeli occupation forces' convoy on the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah road at 1330 today. Reports from the south indicate that fighting is taking place between the Islamic Resistance fighters and the Israeli convoy. Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation forces have shelled Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

At 1355, the scope of the Israeli shelling expanded to cover Frun, Mayfadun, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr.

Libyan Envoy Surprised at Reaction to Jerusalem Visit

NC0806121693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] 'Ashur al-Furtas, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Lebanon, has expressed astonishment at the recent remarks made by some Lebanese officials about the Libyan pilgrims' visit to occupied Jerusalem. He affirmed that the visit did not have any official character or political implications. He stressed his country's continued support for the national rights of the Palestinian people and its continued firm position on the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al-Furtas noted his astonishment because the criticism came from fraternal Lebanon and not from any other Arab state, as he put it. He reaffirmed his country's support for the al-Ta'if agreement and the efforts to restore peace and stability in Lebanon.

Ambassador to U.S. Discusses Ban on Air Tickets

NC0806114993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Lebanese Ambassador to Washington Simon Karam held a news conference at the Foreign Ministry today which was attended by the chairman of the board of directors of the Middle East Airline company [MEA]. At the news conference he discussed the problem of the ban on selling plane tickets to Lebanon. Karam said that the investigation into this affair has ended, and that the U.S. authorities have not imposed a fine on the company. He affirmed that the Lebanese Embassy in Washington is seeking to solve this problem with U.S. authorities. He reassured the Lebanese in the United States that they can travel to Lebanon this summer using MEA.

Nabih Birri Leaves for Damascus for Talks

NC0806083393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri left this morning for Damascus for talks with senior Syrian officials on current developments.

Former President Asked To Testify in Puma Case

NC0806115093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Elie al-Firzli, deputy Chamber of Deputies speaker and chairman of the parliamentary committee investigating the Puma helicopter affair, has announced that former President Amin al- Jumayyil has been invited to testify before the committee at 1030 on 21 June.

Phalangist Party Leader Responds to al-Hariri Remarks

NC0706190793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The Phalangist Party responded with evidence and argument and by dotting the i's of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's recent statements.

At the beginning of an expanded meeting of the Phalangist Party political bureau, the consultative committee, and the central council members, party leader George Sa'adah affirmed the continuation of our march in opposition, especially since the situation has reached a red line. [passage omitted]

[Begin Sa'adah recording] [passage omitted] The Phalangist Party's opposition is not based on private calculations concerning the Phalangist Party and its members in contrast with what they portray each time. Our opposition dates back to the Farayya meeting when the government was formed. Although we were not included in the government, we gave it a three-month period out of faith or to appease public opinion, which believed or imagined that this government would rescue the country from all its plights. [passage omitted]

The statement we released last week contained facts and questions. Instead of answering the questions and clarifying matters, the prime minister's statement yesterday contained a false accusation against the Phalangist Party. We will not pause at this false accusation, but will pursue our march in opposition, especially since the situation has reached a red line. No party such as the Phalangist Party can stay silent about what is happening. We have paid what we hold dear in the cause of the national accord document, not for some people to come and tear it off as if it were the cause of all the mistakes being committed.

The document contains advantages and disadvantages, but because of those who are in charge of implementing it, we have not seen a single advantage yet. If we are leading this campaign, we do so with an overwhelming Phalangist Party majority and with Lebanese public opinion. We may have been late because you always criticized our silence in such meetings and we used to say that our silence was based on the hope that the situation would be rectified again. But when we saw where we had ended up, we carried the banner of opposition and will not be affected by criticism from here or there. The

Phalangist Party's words are sound, and we will seek to spread them in all circles. [end recording]

PSP Command Council Resigns To Make Room for New Team

NC0506070793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Command Council met last night under the chairmanship of PSP leader Walid Junblatt and discussed current domestic and regional developments, the consequences and challenges these involve, and the ramifications they carry for the future of the national, political, and social work in Lebanon. After discussion, the Command Council made two decisions:

1. To entrust its leader with all the authority mentioned in the party's charter and bylaws.

2. To submit the resignation of its members to the party leader and authorize the latter to take all the measures he deems necessary at the current phase.

PSP Secretary General Sharif Fayyad, who announced the Council's decisions, answered a question by saying that the current situation and the challenges of the future necessitate that the party leader be assisted by a dynamic working team capable of handling all the tasks facing the national, political, and social work in Lebanon. Fayyad added: There are big challenges ahead and the Council, which played its role at a previous phase and carried out its tasks in full, deems it its duty and obligation to place its resignation at the disposal of the party leader in order to facilitate the leadership's tasks in the coming phase.

LCP Replaces Central Committee With National Council

NC0706112393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] The seventh emergency session of the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] ended its work at dawn today. It elected a National Council to replace the Central Committee and reinstated Faruq Dahrug in his post as LCP secretary general.

The congress, which held meetings for three days, made a number of political decisions, endorsed a political document, and amended its bylaws.

The LCP National Council will continue electing its bodies this week. The LCP elections results and the party resolutions will be announced at a news conference later on.

Vice President Outlines Policy on Peace Talks

JN0806145893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 8 Jun 93

["Text" of statement by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at second conference of the Mediterranean Press Agencies Alliance in Damascus on 8 June—recorded]

[Text] Friends: I am happy to meet with you on this occasion, the convocation of your conference in Damascus. It also pleases me to convey to you His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's warmest greetings and his wishes that your conference succeed in meeting the objectives for which it was convened.

This conference reflects the nature of relations among our Mediterranean countries. The presence of the Alliance of Mediterranean Press Agencies should encourage the formation of other associations in economic, cultural, and other fields. This will enhance relations among our countries and people. We are not only partners in terms of geography. We have historical partnerships. We all have contributed throughout history to all the civilizations established in the Mediterranean basin. Syria has had relationships with every country in this basin throughout history. Our countries are bound by large interests. The more we seek to enhance these interests, the more we will be able to provide security and stability in the basin as a model of cooperation and coexistence among the people who border it.

I wish you have the opportunity to become familiar with the progress and development Syria has made during the past two decades. After His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad assumed power in the country, and in accordance with a program based on the country's resources, capabilities, and ambitions, achievements were made in all the political, economic, cultural, and social walks of life. It goes without saying that our achievements remain below our ambitions, because we aspire to bridge the gap between ourselves and the countries which are ahead of us in terms of progress and development. No doubt the allocation of a large part of our resources for defense capabilities has greatly affected our attaining most of our aspirations. This is because the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and the expansionist designs the Israelis used to have in terms of the establishment of a big country in the region, forced us to allocate a large part of our resources to defend our land, safeguard our dignity, and protect our rights.

Since 1973, Syria has been committed to work for a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on UN Security Council resolutions. We believe partial and separate solutions will only make the situation more complex and will only increase suffering. That is why we abided by the slogan of a just and comprehensive peace. We exerted huge efforts, aware that peace is a necessity not only for Syria but for the entire region and the world at large. This is because we are all aware of the strategic and economic importance of the Middle East. Peace in the region will be a peace for all. We continued to work in this direction over the past years.

Former U.S. President George Bush launched his peace initiative in the wake of the Gulf war. After we studied this initiative, and in light of the guarantees offered by the United States, Syria accepted this initiative. You all realize that Syria's acceptance of the U.S. initiative paved the way to the Madrid conference and the Washington negotiations.

What has been achieved does not constitute tangible and meaningful progress. However, peace in itself, and as a major goal, with all the important impacts it will have on the situation in the region, requires further efforts and action.

Given that the situation in the region affects the international situation, the international community is also required to exert further efforts to bring pressure on Israel to abide by UN Security Council resolutions and the principles and bases of the peace initiative.

Syria has done all it could to remove the obstacles blocking continuation of the talks, because, as I have said, the issue concerns a major objective. Hence, major efforts must be exerted for its sake.

We will continue working to achieve what we seek: Establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. As we all know, peace is, without doubt, not just a regional need or a need limited to a specific country. It is both an international and a regional need. Greater awareness and world cooperation is required to turn the page on this chapter and achieve security, justice, and rights within the framework of international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

Our involvement in the peace process does not mean a lack of concern about other regional and world issues. Syria is part of the Arab body and is concerned about what Arabs are facing. It is also part of this region and is concerned about its problems. Furthermore, Syria is part of the world and is interested in seeing the world dominated by peace and justice.

We have faced many problems in this region, including some complicated problems. We have made effective contributions in order to achieve results. These results may not be the best, as far as we and our region are concerned, but they were the least harmful. We have always based, and will continue to base, our views on the principle that peaceful relations among regional states should be based on nonintervention in domestic affairs, respect for sovereignty, and improving ties to serve the interests of all. Therefore, our position during the Iraq-Iran war was based on our understanding of the negative impact of that war on the region and the two warring countries. Ten years later, everyone paused to note and consider Syria's stand and to note and consider their own positions, which they understoodd were based on incorrect considerations.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait, we also took a clear stand. We were not content with a political position, but made practical and political contributions to end the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and restore security and peace to the Gulf region.

As for our foreign relations, as far as we are concerned they are based on firm principles. We wish, and endeavor, to have good relations with everyone based on mutual interests, respect, and nonintervention in internal affairs.

Without a doubt, we have to exert major efforts to find, as I said earlier, an atmosphere that will help establish ties among Mediterranean states to serve as a bridge between the European side of the Mediterranean and the East, and a bridge between the East and West. I believe the media—and you are a principal part of it—can make a significant contribution in that regard. Some of our states may have differences over this or that political, economic, or other issue, but what is important is the fact that the interests of our peoples require that these differences be avoided and a search made for means to bolster these interests and strengthen and develop ties.

Further on Remarks

JN0806184893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 8 Jun (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met at noon today with members of the delegations participating in the second conference of Mediterranean Press Agencies Alliance currently convening in the Al-Sham hotel conference hall in Damascus.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad Salman, information minister; Dr. Sabir Falhut, president of the Journalists Union; Adib Ghanam, assistant information minister; the directors of the media establishments; and Arab and foreign news agencies, television and radio correspondents.

Addressing the audience, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said: Friends, I am happy to meet with you on this occasion, the convocation of your conference in Damascus. It also pleases me to convey to you His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's warmest greetings and his wishes that your conference succeed in meeting the objectives for which it was convened. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, Khaddam replied to a question by saying that extremism in a society is an anomalous manifestation and is not confined to any specific society. It surfaces in this or that society from time to time in various forms. At times, it takes the form of religious extremism, at others that of racist extremism. We cannot say that extremism has a uniform content in all societies. Whenever extremism surfaces in any society, one must study this manifestation and its causes. Extremism has many causes which differ from one society to another.

Khaddam added: There is Islamic extremism in some Arab countries and Christian extremism in some Christian countries. There is racist extremism, too. Is not the new Nazi movement in Germany one type of extremism? Is not the Zionist movement a fundamentalist movement when it calls for the reestablisment of a Torah state, and to going back 2,000 years? Are there no extremist Jewish movements? The phenomenon of religious extremism is not confined to Arab or Islamic societies. It exists in all societies. The causes of extremism in one society might differ from those of extremism in another.

Khaddam said: From this premise, we must not assume that this manifestation exists in a specific society or a specific region. It exists under various forms such as the Hindu extremism. The events in India constitute religious extremism. What takes place in Bosnia is also religious extremism. When this or that manfestation appears in any society, this society should study its causes and ramifications and tackle it in a manner that serves the interests of the society and the country.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and cmmunism, the threat that used to haunt the Western world disappeared. The Israelis used to tell the Westerners that they were an advance base to defend Western interests in the region against communism and the Soviet Union. Now that this excuse no longer stands and the Western world and the Arabs have started to realize that solid relations could exist between the Arabs and the Western world, some quarters in Israel began stating that Islam poses a threat to the West and to Western interests. The former Israeli president gave an interview while he was in Poland in which he said that following the downfall of the Soviet Union, Islam now poses a threat to world peace and security.

Khaddam added: We must take this manifestation into consideration. Of course, this does not mean that there is no pure extremism or that Israel is behind it. We must take this aspect into consideration when we speak about Islam. This is because there are campaigns against Islam to fabricate problems between the Muslim world and the Western world. These problems will not serve the interests of either the Muslim or the Western world. That's why we must take care not to do something that is not in our interest.

Some fundamentalist Islamic organizations are not far from cooperation with the West. In Afghanistan, for example, the mojehedin organizations used to receive Western support and aid. However, we should not generalize any phenomenon in a certain place and try to apply it to other societies. Any radical religious or racial phenomenon in any society should be assessed in light of its own circumstances and in isolation of other societies, because generalization in this regard may not be justified and may not help remedy problems facing this or that country as a result of extremism. Generalization, as well as failure to assess a certain phenomenon in light of its objective circumstances, may lack means of remedy. The

factors for such a phenomenon may conflict if seen from different angles, and consequently, the viewer may lose the ability to remedy it.

Replying to another question, Khaddam said: Undoubtedly, we need a summit meeting to deal with certain issues in the region. If no preparations are made to ensure the success of such a meeting, it may not produce the results we desire. As we know, there is a split in the Arab situation, particularly because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which caused political, psychological, and material damage and impaired relations among the Arab countries. So, we have to exert great efforts to deal with this situation in order to make that summit meeting successful.

He also said: I believe everybody needs such a remedy, and every Arab country needs to reconsider the Arab situation. We all need such reassessment in order to restore Arab solidarity, which is very necessary not only for promoting relations among the Arab countries, but also to achieve stability and security in the entire region. Differences will not help achieve stability in the region, and the absence of stability will affect economic, cultural, and social development. Therefore, we should make a real review of the Arab situation to restore Arab solidarity. We all are required to create favorable circumstances for that purpose.

Asked about the fact that Syria has always supported the convening of Arab summits, he said: Such summits under all circumstances produce positive results. As I said, due to the current psychological crisis and as a result of the material and psychological damage that the Gulf war caused to the region, appropriate circumstances should be created, and everybody should come, keeping in mind the importance of the success of the conference.

Asked another question, he said: The previous world order has collapsed but no new world order has yet been established. The new world order, or what we can call a new world order, has not crystallized. The world is now reshaping after a volcano erupted and a major power in the world collapsed.

He added: The new world to which we aspire is a world of security and just peace for everyone, a world in which no state attacks another state and no strong state occupies a weak one, a world with no gap between the advanced states and the Third World countries, and a world in which the North, the South, the East, and the West cooperate. This world has not yet emerged, and the post-Cold War world has not yet taken shape. It is true that the other pole, the United States, is in control, but it is not and could not be a substitute for the new world. The proof is that when the United States faces an international problem, it resorts to the Security Council, presents the problem to the Security Council, and adopts the resolution it wants. What is important, however, is that it resorts to the Security Council. This proves that the United States does not consider itself the world. The world has nations and states, and every state is required to work to formulate a new world order on bases that can guarantee rights and justice for everyone.

Khaddam added: As for us, who are we? We are one nation; we are an Arab homeland; we are Arabs; we have an Arab identity. However, we are also part of the region, the Islamic world, Third World, the Nonaligned Movement, the universe. The fact that we are members of the Arab League does not contradict our being members of the Nonaligned Movement, which, in turn, does not contradict our being members of the Islamic Conference Organization, which also does not contradict our being members of the United Nations.

As we see it, the world is made up of several interconnected links. When these links are in good shape, the world leads a happy life in peace and security. If, however, the links are weak or broken, the world will be in total chaos and disarray.

We have a variety of responsibilities dictated by our Arab affiliation, Islamic identity, and membership in the Nonaligned Movement. We also have other responsibilities emanating from our being an important part of this world. The Arab nation occupies a considerable expanse of this planet, and is rich in oil, a lifeline of economies. It also has an ancient history, bearing witness to its culture, civilization, and other aspects which have contributed a great deal toward the advancement of mankind. All the links I have mentioned are not contradictory; rather, they are complementary. Each should serve the other.

Answering another question, Khaddam said: We should make efforts so the Mediterranean states play a role in North-South relations. The European Community is also an important political and economic entity. The Arab world and Europe share a wide range of economic, cultural, and political relations. These relations witnessed some negative developments, but all in all they were positive. We believe that the European Community should make an effective contribution toward promoting its ties with the states of the region. It should also make a large, constructive contribution with regard to the peace process.

Khaddam added: We had originally called for a peace conference in which the European Community would participate through its Security Council representatives. This has not happened. Nevertheless, Europe has an interest in peace in the region. Therefore, it should make a direct contribution by contacting the parties to the peace process or adopting policies to eliminate obstacles to this process.

Concerning the next round of negotiations, he said: We repeat today what we said when we first accepted the peace initiatives, and what we will continue to say in the future, that we are committed to achieving a just, comprehensive settlement for all parties and aspects of the conflict. There will be no separate peace. We can never say that peace is achieved or can be achieved if we ignore

the Palestine question, the occupation of southern Lebanon, or the occupation of the Golan. Peace must include everybody.

Khaddam added: As we know, the Palestine question is the basis of the conflict. The Arab-Israeli conflict had begun for the sake of the Palestinians. Accordingly, Syria today, just as in the past and the future, supports the Palestinian people and shares all their concerns. Syria will continue to work for a comprehensive peace. This is a basic stand. If the world really wants peace, we should never focus on separate solutions or partial peace.

Asked about the prospects for the coming Arab-Israeli negotiations, Khaddam said: In fact, negotiations are negotiations, and they aim to achieve a specific result; namely, peace in the region. We did not go to negotiations for the sake of negotiations. Negotiations are not an end but a means. Accordingly, we have proceeded on this path, so we will either realize the desired results or reach a dead end. We cannot, so far, say we have faced a dead end. It is true that we have achieved nothing, but negotiations need work, efforts, and some patience. The goal is to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. We do not have new facts for the next round. We, however, hope that the conference sponsors, the United States and Russia, particularly the U.S. Administration, will exert additional efforts to pressure the Israelis into announcing their commitment to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and consequently place the negotiations on the right path. As for Arab coordination, the states concerned with the negotiations usually meet before and after each round of talks, and they also hold discussions and coordinate their positions. There is good coordination, and the Arab delegations in Washington also meet, coordinate their positions, and exchange information and stands.

Replying to another question, Khaddam said: Arab solidarity, whether or not there are negotiations, is a pressing need for us as Arabs. We have made efforts, and President Hafiz al-Asad has made several contacts and Arab tours for this purpose. Solidarity will remain a pressing need for us to achieve. However, if we cannot achieve solidarity the way we desire, we will at least work to stop the collapse. Coordination among the parties concerned is good. These matters are discussed in the foreign ministers' meetings at the Arab League. There is an Arab agreement on supporting the peace process. There is also an almost unanimous Arab agreement voiced at all Arab League Council meetings on foreign ministers level. We hope that this or that party will not deviate from this Arab consensus. However, if this occurs it should be tackled in such a way as to contain the negative aspects and prevent further deviations.

Asked about U.S. President Clinton's statements on the U.S. guarantees about the Golan if Syria and Israel reach an agreement, Khaddam said: This issue will be discussed during the talks.

Replying to another question, Khaddam asked the reporters if they feel optimistic about the saying that one should not be pessimistic. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Cabinet Member on Siting of Government Functions

LD0806175293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Esteemed Seyyed Husayn Anwari, who is a member of the new cabinet, spoke to a BAKHTAR reporter about the consultative meeting of the new cabinet. He said: The necessity of immediately starting the official work of the cabinet and the implementation of articles of the Jalalabad agreement were discussed at this meeting. Cabinet members emphasized that serious efforts should be made for the official commencement of cabinet work.

In connection with the surrender of heavy weapons to the commission of the Ministry of Defense, he said that Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Union] and he himself believe that it is not necessary to retain heavy weapons after the victory of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of the Islamic state. However, the commission of the Ministry of Defense has not yet started work.

Speaking on the necessity of the oath-taking ceremony and the official beginning of the cabinet work, esteemed Anwari said: This is a necessary matter. The president and the prime minister-designate should pay serious attention to this matter. Regarding the place of work of the prime minister, he said that the continuation of work in Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar's place of work in Charasiab is unnecessary, because of its distance from the city, which hampers centralized administration and makes it difficult to maintain tranquillity in the interests of the people. The esteemed prime minister ought to start work very close to the city and the state establishments. The most important thing is that complete understanding should be created, and people's anxiety regarding another round of fighting should be eliminated.

A BAKHTAR political observer writes that arguments concerning carrying out the work of the government in localities outside the city are unjustified for many reasons. First, the lack of trust which has been created during the past year as well as the fear of people of the start of more battles demand that leaders of the jehadi organizations and the appointed cabinet under the Jalalabad agreements should begin work in the center of the city. On the other hand, the centralization of administration requires the close proximity of the work places of the high authorities of the state. Despite the fact that modern communications equipment exists in the world, the state establishments in all countries, including ours, have been created almost in a assigned area inside the center of cities. The lack of fuel and transport and of an organized postal system are problems that create obstacles in the work of the state administration in localities outside the city center. The most important thing of all is that if Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar begins work at the designated place for the prime minister, it would mean complete trust and understanding among members of the government and confidence of the people in the permanent cessation of war in the city. Since the people have witnessed three very bloody wars between the forces of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Engineer Hekmatyar and the Islamic government, they are expressing concern at the insistence of Hezb-e Eslami on having the prime minister-designate work outside the city.

India

Kashmir: 4 Killed in 'Militancy-Related Incidents'

BK0806160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, four persons were killed and 47 others injured in militancy-related incidents since yesterday. Security forces apprehended 20 militants during the same period. An official spokesman told newsmen in Srinagar today that 34 persons, including six security men, were injured in a grenade attack by militants in Pulwama market. A 17-year-old student, who was injured in the attack, later succumbed to his injuries.

Bangladesh Refugees Refuse Repatriation

BK0806161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] In spite of arrangements, the repatriation of the 200 odd Chakma [Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts tribal] refugees from Silacheri refugee camp in South Tripura District did not take place today. Our correspondent understands that the refugees have declined to return unless Dhaka agrees to their 13-point charter of demands submitted to the Bangladesh communications minister during his visit to the refugee camps last month. The Tripura chief minister, Mr. Dasarath Deb, told our Agartala correspondent that the state government is not in favor of pushing back the Chakma refugees.

Iran

Defense Minister: No Threat in U.S. Gulf Presence

NC0806180693 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 8 (AFP)—Defence Minister Akbar Torkan said Tuesday [8 June] that the U.S. military presence in the Gulf posed no threat to Iran and was aimed solely against Iraq.

"The U.S. presence here is not to threaten us. They are not trying to threaten us and we are not trying to threaten them," the minister told foreign journalists.

"The Americans themselves are not in a position to wage war," he said, adding that U.S. President Bill Clinton was ordering cuts on the military budget.

But he warned the deployment of U.S. forces to contain Iraq and protect Kuwait "increases the level of tension" in the region.

Iran has repeatedly criticized Gulf states, notably Kuwait, for concluding security pacts with western countries following the 1991 Gulf war which evicted Iraq from the emirate after seven months of occupation.

Tension has surfaced because of U.S. calls for Iran's isolation on alleged charges of backing international terrorism and seeking to dominate the region.

Torkan, echoing statements from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, said relations with Washington could improve however if the United States released the Iranian assets frozen in 1979 over the hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy.

Adopting an equally moderate tone on Saudi Arabia, he played down the row over last month's pilgrimage to Mecca, home of Islam's holiest sites.

"Regarding the 'deliverance from pagans' rally, of course we have our differences," he said, referring to Riyadh's ban last month on an Iranian anti-U.S. demonstration in Mecca, western Saudi Arabia.

"But it does not mean, necessarily, we cannot cooperate in other fields," the defence minister said. "We will certainly continue our cooperation on oil, the economy and security."

Torkan denied Cairo's charges that Iran was behind the wave of Muslim militancy that has swept Egypt. "We in no way intend to interfere. It is the will of the (Egyptian) people to decide the outcome," he said.

Advisers To Seek 'Unofficial Dialogue' With U.S.

PM0806101093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jun 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In Attempt To Ease Tension With United States, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sends Delegation To Initiate 'Unofficial Dialogue' in Washington"]

[Text] Washington, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has decided to send a team of Iranian foreign policy advisers to the United States to initiate an "unofficial dialogue" with U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration.

Iranian and U.S. sources say that the team will arrive in New York next Wednesday. It is expected to stay in the United States for two weeks. The team will visit a number of cities, including Washington.

The team will be headed by Lieutenant General Mohammad Javad Larijani, the president's adviser for political affairs and Majles member. The delegation includes also 'Abdolkarim Surash, chairman of the Islamic Revolution Council, and Mohammad Bahrololum, the president's assistant for ideological issues.

The visit has been arranged by Mohammad Mahallati, an Iranian working for Iran in New York. Iranian attempts to arrange a dialogue with the U.S. Administration began early in the year when Iran sent a delegation on a three-week visit to discuss oil sales. But the delegation failed to initiate a dialogue. Nevertheless, the relative moderation in the Iranian response to recent U.S. moves is, in many analysts' view, an indication that Rafsanjani still hopes to reinforce the dialogue.

Reaction to Events at Ministers' Tripartite Meeting

Not 'Intervention' in Iraqi Affairs

NC0806082093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Commentary prepared by the "News Commentaries Group" from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] At the end of their meeting in Tehran, the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria issued a communique stating their joint stances on various issues, especially the situation in northern Iraq. The Tehran session is the fourth of its kind among Iran, Turkey, and Syria. Before this, the three countries had held sessions in Istanbul, Ankara, and Damascus and had exchanged views on how regional problems affect neighboring countries.

Even though various problems such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and regional terrorism were discussed, the main focus of the talks centered on the problems in northern Iraq and their impact on the region. In the Tehran session's final communique, Iran, Turkey, and Syria stressed the importance of preserving Iraq's territorial integrity and determining its fate by implementing the free and common will of all Iraqis. The three countries also expressed opposition to any effort, under any pretext, aimed at dismembering Iraq.

The three countries are interested in the Iraq situation. This topic is important to each of them because Iraq's problems could have direct repercussions on the national security of neighboring countries. The fact that the security of each regional country is threatened by tension in another and that the increased security of each country is coupled with the increased security of others are the reasons why Iran, Turkey, and Syria have not been able to consider themselves detached from the current problems in Iraq. These three countries ruled out the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity because it could lead to much tension in the region and have shown during their sessions that they intend to confront this. [sentence as heard]

In explaining the reasons for the Tehran meeting, Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati said that confronting the repercussions stemming from Iraq's domestic situation, which is linked with the security of Iran, Syria, and Turkey, led to the meeting. Thus, the three countries do not consider their meeting on Iraq as intervention in

Iraq's domestic affairs, and they consider the adoption of any decision on Iraq to be the right of the Iraqi people.

Dailies Hail Meeting

LD0806130793 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies, in their editorials Tuesday [8 June], welcomed the outcome of the fourth tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria held here Monday.

'JOMHURI-E ESLAMI' hoped that the meeting would lead to reinforcement of regional cooperation and the 'TEHRAN TIMES' said its success depended on how well and how far the three countries could maintain their concordance of views.

The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-E ESLAMI' referred to Iran's belief that the hegemonistic powers followed their specific goals in any political or military intervention in the region and that any invitation to them to solve a regional problem would create other problems by far more difficult to settle.

Turning to the attempts made by the West in general and the U.S. in particular to make everyone believe that the regional governments were unable to solve the political crises among themselves, it said such an attitude would be likely as long as the regional governments considered their political survival and stability in foreign support.

The daily stressed that the fate of Iraq and its disintegration stemmed from lack of belief and commitment of regional governments to regional solutions to overcome their crises and also from the governments' attachment to foreign assistance.

Criticising the reactions shown so far by Iran towards the developments beyond its borders as "insufficient", the daily said "the region seriously needs a collective cooperation to achieve a unified regional strategy."

It maintained that the tripartite meeting followed such a goal, and expressed hope that the cooperation and consultations would lead to reinforcement of regional solutions to solve regional problems so that the need for interference of adventurist and opportunist foreign powers would not be felt.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said "the concordance of views among the three countries is a very valuable asset which deserves to be safeguarded with great care."

Turning to the suspicious policies taken by the U.S. and some Western countries in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, it said that while adopting a no-war-no-peace relation with Iraq, they started surreptitious moves, preparing for the disintegration of Iraq."

It praised the three countries of Iran, Syria and Turkey for exhibiting "an admirable alertness to the suspicious goings-on in Iraq".

"Certainly those who are hatching plots for the region, will first try to sow seeds of discord among these countries," said the daily adding that the success of these countries depended on "how well and how far they can maintain the concordance of views" exibited in Monday's meeting.

Interior Minister on Elections, Process

LD0806212793

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1800 GMT on 8 June broadcasts 62-minute phone-in program entitled "Direct Contact with Officials" and featuring Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri.

The first question is put by the studio announcer who asks how the Guardian Council decides the eligibility of the presidential candidates. Nuri replies that in Iran as in many other countries the candidates for the presidency should have certain qualifications. The Constitution specifies that the president should have religious and administrative qualifications. Therefore, the Guardian Council has to look at the list of the candidates and choose the ones who have the necessary qualifications.

Then some clips are shown of Ayatollah Khomeyni and Ayatollah Khamene'i and other people casting their votes in previous elections. One person asks the minister to make sure that there are enough ballot papers available so that polling booths are not faced with shortages on the election day. He promises that necessary preparations will be made. He is then asked about the times of elections and he says that elections will be held between 0800 and 1800, but if there is too much demand for voting the time of voting can be extended.

This is followed by a report from Mehran and Dehloran about people's enthusiasm for participating in the elections with interviews with members of the public about why it is important to take part.

The studio announcer then says that in some foreign countries a number of minor and marginal issues make some people boycott the elections. Nuri says that in Iran the people have sufficient maturity to realize that taking part in the elections is a religious and political duty. There has always been opposition to the Islamic Republic, but with their massive participation in political events our people have neutralized those plots.

Then there are some interviews with members of the public. One of them asks to know the yardsticks used by the Guardian Council in selecting the candidates. Nuri says that as he said earlier, the Guardian Council selects the candidates on the basis of their eligibility according to the Constitution.

Another young person asks if these candidates have the ability to deal with international issues, such as human rights issues. Nuri says that it is up to the people to vote for the person they feel has the necessary qualifications.

A third person asks if the opposition groups have set forth candidates and if they are represented by the candidates. Nuri says that he saw the full list of those who expressed their candidacy, but he could not find any prominent individuals belonging to known political factions.

Another question is asked about whether the people who are making certain promises in their election campaign are dutybound to carry out those promises. Nuri says there are certain regulations about campaigns but the people should vote for someone whom they trust to carry out his promises.

One young woman says there is a rumor that the identity cards of those who do not vote will be made invalid and asks if this is true. Nuri says there have been many elections in the past and such a thing has never happened. He says that this rumor is false, but people will take part in the elections because they regard it as their Islamic duty. A few technical questions about elections are then asked, which Nuri answers.

Nateq-Nuri: Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes

LD0806160693 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here Tuesday [8 June] that Iran has repeatedly made it clear that nuclear energy centers in Iran are used for medical, energy and industrial purposes.

The speaker who inspected various sections of the Atomic Energy Organization (AEO), added that international organizations have confirmed Iran's peaceful use of nuclear energy following their inspection of these centers.

He further added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not been treated fairly in this respect because in centers such as the AEO research projects are carried out for the benefit of human beings and saving their lives. However, the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran have accused Iran of using nuclear energy for the destruction of mankind.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri said that enormous projects are being carried out in the AEO.

He also added that the Islamic Republic of Iran who faces many enemies is one of the most stable countries of the region and the world. "This is a source of pride for the officials and the nation," he added.

Gold Extraction Plant in Esfahan Operational

LD0806185093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Summary] Iran's first gold-extraction plant—one of the most modern in the world—has now become operational. The Mu'teh gold- extraction plant which is situated in Meymeh District of Esfahan Province, has the capacity to crush 500 tonnes of gold-bearing rock, and extracts 500 kg of gold per annum, thus meeting most of the country's gold requirement. The plant has definite reserves of 1.2 million tonnes, probable reserves of 3 million, and potential reserves of 5 million tonnes of gold-bearing rock. So far nine mines have been discovered, two of which can meet the plant's gold ore requirements in a period of 16 years. The cost of constructing the plant has amounted to 3.5 billion tomans.

Nepal

Politicians 'Not Immune' From Human Rights Charges

BK0806134493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1320 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 8 (AFP)—Nepal's prime minister Tuesday [8 June] reminded politicians here that they were not immune from charges of human rights abuses.

"We, the politicians, are ourselves violating human rights while fighting among ourselves for our own political interests," Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told a one-day seminar on Human Rights and the Nepal Police here.

"Politicians should make it a point to abide by law and maintain constitutional rights while talking about their political moves," Koirala said, adding that politicians should not be caught in conflicts of interest and that "all should work under the framework of the constitution."

"If we, the politicians ourselves go against the constitution, then there will be a definite violation of human rights of others," Koirala added.

"The present government's commitment to the respect for human rights is unflinching which is borne out of the long and arduous struggle that it waged to restore the basic human rights to the Nepalese people," Koirala said.

The reference was to Nepal's successful pro-democracy uprising against the partyless system that had ruled the country for some 30 years.

Human Rights Professor Rishikesh Shah and senior advocate Radhe Shayam Adhikari, speaking at the same seminar, recommended that the government amend the security law, now that Nepal had a pluralistic political system.

Indian Socialist Leader's Remarks on Tibet Assailed

BK0806152593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 8 (AFP)—The Nepalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tuesday [8 June] strongly criticised anti-Chinese statements made by Indian Socialist leader George Fernandes during his visit to Kathmandu last week.

Fernandes, who made the trip despite being refused an entry visa for Tibet, criticised during his trip what he called China's "occupation of Tibet".

"It is unfortunate that Fernandes made this statement on Nepalese soil," a Foreign Ministry press release said.

"Nepal recognizes Tibet as an autonomous region of the People's Republic of China," it added.

Fernandes visited Kathmandu last week at the joint invitation of the Socialist Democratic Youth of Nepal and Tibetan Youths Club, a militant group, to participate in a two-day "Democratic Socalist Youths Seminar."

The Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu turned down his request to visit the Tibetan border village of Chang Mu, a Chinese Embassy source said.

Despite the refusal Fernandes drove to the Tibetan frontier with some Nepali Congress parliamentarians, and a Nepalese border officer.

He crossed eleven check posts before Chinese guards stopped him and asked to return to the Nepalese border, the embassy source said.

After returning to Kathmandu on June 4, the Indian leader made critical remarks against China and spoke of the "occupation of Tibet", calling for the liberation of the Tibetan people.

Fernandes, a former Indian minister for railways and a senior Socialist Party leader also repeated allegations that the Chinese Government had dumped nuclear waste in Tibet, and affected ecology in the region by massive tree felling.

Fernandes is the first foreign politician to openly support liberation for Tibet, in Nepal contravening the Nepalese Governments stance on Tibet, impartial political observers here said.

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif Denies Move To Impeach President

BK0806114593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Jun 93 pp 1, 5

[Text] Islamabad, June 7—The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has categorically denied that his government intends to impeach the president. Instead, he asserted "we are devoting our efforts for the reconstruction of the economy which had heavily suffered during the rule of caretaker government".

The prime minister was informally talking to newsmen here at the parliament house after the National Assembly session on Monday evening.

He said that the foremost concern of his government was to ease the tense political climate and to reconstruct the economy of the country.

In response to a question, the prime minister said that nothing was being shelved so far as the motorway project was concerned and added that all roads and projects would be constructed as per contracts.

Answering another question, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said his government was striving to give maximium economic relief to the common man in the forthcoming budget.

In reply to another question, the prime minister said he was not aware of whether the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] had demanded of the government an exclusive committee for dialogue with the seven-members political committee formed by the PDA leaders today. He rather emphasised that government would respond to the opposition in the same manner it intends to negotiate for mutual cooperation.

Earlier, the Reconciliation Committee constituted by the prime minister for dialogue with the opposition held its first meeting in the chamber of Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture Lieutenant- General (Retd.) Abdul Majeed Malik and discussed the scope of the dialogue.

The meeting was attended by ANP [Awami National Party] President Mr. Ajmal Khan Khattak, Mr. Hasil Bezenjo and other members of the committee.

Mr. Ajmal Khattak while talking to THE PAKISTAN TIMES said that the committee would strive to bring about a durable rapprochement between the government and the oppcsition in the larger interests of the country and the masses. He hoped that the political committee constituted by the PDA on Monday would adopt a positive approach.

Later talking to newsmen, Abdul Majeed Malik said that the government team constituted for holding negotiations with the opposition will be meeting soon with the team of PDA.

Mr. Majeed Malik said every possible effort will be made to translate the spirit into reality to the speeches of the prime minister and the leader of the opposition delivered at the floor of the National Assembly on May 31.

He made a passionate appeal to the patriotic people to avoid commenting on the functioning of the reconciliatory committees. This he said may cause an obstacle in their smooth functioning.

He pointed out that the nation is desperately waiting for the outcome of the results of these committees and added that the nation will reject those who adopt negative attitude towards the committees.

Paper Cautions Against Impeachment Moves

BK0806121793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 8 Jun 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Talk of Impeachment"]

[Text] Although in the highly-charged political atmosphere following the dissolution of the National Assembly some voices demanding impeachment of the president were being raised, it is for the first time that the matter was discussed in an informal meeting of the Cabinet. There were some in the Cabinet who are said to have been in favor of a patch-up between the president and the prime minister, but the vast majority, according to press reports, was in a vengeful mood. The prime minister himself was reportedly in favor of restraint and is said to have pointed out to other higher priorities before the government. Whether that really pacified the more worked-up members of his Cabinet enough to have closed the subject finally, is not yet clear. It may, therefore, still be relevant to examine the logic behind such a demand. To begin with, the prime minister gave an undertaking to the Supreme Court to work with the president under the Constitution. The Constitution does provide for impeachment of the president under certain circumstances but such a move without proper groundwork and consideration could boomerang and hence defeat the very purpose. The first step towards possible impeachment would obviously be to have a head count. The prime minister, winning a vote of confidence soon after his reinstatement, had only 123 votes in his favor. Would they all stand by him in the impeachment process also? Apart from the fact that it is uncertain, that figure itself is nowhere near the two- third majority for success. The opposition can no doubt be approached to cooperate, but unless its support is assured as a result of protracted negotiations, the move is bound to fail.

The thought behind the impeachment proposal is clearly reflective of the deep sense of revulsion being felt amongst the ruling party against the presidential moves. True, the president has employed every trick in the book, including pitting the provinces against the federal government to dislodge the prime minister even after the supreme court verdict, but, political sagacity demands caution on the part of the prime minister and his colleagues. It is not in the interest of the prime minister to let the machinations of the presidential lobby succeed. To this extent the emotion in the ruling party for impeachment is understandable. But judging from the fact that the president is bent upon tearing the political fabric of the country asunder, a cool-headed approach and a better sense of timing is required. Hence the prime minister, who is already disinclined to such a venture at this stage, should caution his colleagues not to be drawn into an emotional cul de sac.

Bhutto Calls for 'Fresh, Free,' 'Fair' Elections

BK0806115593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 8 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairperson Benazir Bhutto has hinted that the civilian political order in the country was at the brink of collapse. "If the politicians don't act maturely to save the system then anything can happen," she responded when asked about the chances of the imposition of martial law.

Talking to a group of journalists outside the opposition chamber in the parliament house, Monday she reiterated about the gravity of the prevailing political crisis. "Fresh, free and fair elections are the sole solution to bring the country out of the history's worst constitutional-cum-economic crisis," she advocated.

About the chances of the dissolution of the Sindh and Balochistan assemblies, Bhutto said there were more genuine reasons to dissolve the Sindh Assembly. "There were MPAs [members of the provincial assembly] in Sindh Assembly who got merely 700 votes, since last year it was functioning due to the presence of army in the province," she alleged.

Bhutto, who remained busy in hectic political consultations with her PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] and APC [All-Parties Conference] allies, also has a detailed meeting with United States Ambassador John C. Monjo at her residence Monday morning. Former caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and APC leader Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan also called on Benazir and discussed current issues.

Similarly the much-talked-about reconciliation effort also seemed to die in wilderness as the "traditional language of accusations" marked the National Assembly proceedings Monday evening. The formation of a series of committees reflects that all efforts for the dialogue are mere non-starters and all are trying to cheat each other to please unknown forces said a PML (J) [Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo] leader in the parliament cafeteria.

Even the PDA parliamentary meeting prior to the Monday sitting remained issueless. Only Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan briefed the partipants about what could be termed as "update about Punjab situation." The seriousness of the premier's sudden offer for dialogue was also questioned by a few PDA legislators. They seemed quite satisfied with equally non-serious response in the shape of the formation of a PDA's committee comprising "non-elected" second line leaders, except, Senator Iqbal Haider.

PDA sources confided that Benazir Bhutto was quite serious about the fate of parliamentary democracy in the country. "If the government's reponse would have remained positive then the legislators from the both sides of the political divide would sit together to thrash out the vital issues in near future," sources added. "But remember all this process was linked to a big if," PDA MNA [member of the National Assembly] from Sindh remarked.